PIHOA discussed NCDs in Pacific. PAGE 5
USDA loan eyed to rejuvenate NMI infrastructure. PAGE 7

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

Injunction eyed vs CUC genset

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Edwin K. Propst is thinking of suing the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board to stop it from going through with a plan to buy a new diesel generator.

Propst (Ind-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he would be filing an injunction against the CUC board's plan and he hopes that Attorney General Edard Manibusan will agree to file it.

Propst said that he has already met with Manibusan, who agreed with

See INJUNCTION on Page 4

IPI to open Friday, not for business

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel Saipan will push through with its Friday opening but it is not clear if the casino floor—which was supposed to begin operating first—would welcome its first players or not. A source close to Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC said that workers would clean some areas of the construction site, like clearing debris and other materials.

Imperial Pacific Resort is the first phase of IPI Holdings' multi-billion dollar development project on Saipan. It plans to ultimately have 140,000 square meters of entertainment and gaming facilities. The hotel will have 340 suites and

See IPI on Page 4

PARENT SUMMIT
The 2017 Public School System Statewide Parent Summit at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort was attended by parents of PSS students to voice their concerns regarding the educational system as well as improve parental involvement in education.
ERWIN ENCINARES

Firm linked to IPI arranged Saipan lawmakers' trips

By DANIELA WEI and MATTHEW CAMPBELL
BLOOMBERG

The company that paid for controversial fact-finding visits to Hong Kong and Macau by lawmakers from the U.S. territory of Saipan has connections to the operator of the island's casino, according to evidence accepted by a Hong Kong court this month.

In a High Court judgment issued March 16 in a suit over casino debts, Judge Bebe Pui Ying Chu found

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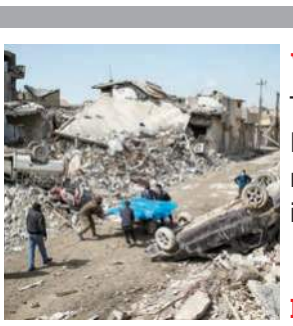
INSIDE

BUSINESS
President Trump eliminates numerous restrictions on fossil fuel production.
PAGE 16



WORLD
The explosion in Mosul last week killed more than 100 civilians
PAGE 18

LIFE & STYLE
Dwayne Johnson says "Baywatch" is going to be the sexiest comedy of the summer.
PAGE 20

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IT&E

Local

April is Environmental Awareness Month

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog pose with Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality staff after signing a proclamation designating April as Environmental Awareness Month.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The right of Commonwealth residents to live in a clean and healthy environment is actually embodied in the CNMI Constitution. Article 1 declares that: "Each person has the right to a clean and healthy public environment in all areas, including the land, air, and water."

That point was made last Tuesday when Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog signed a proclamation designating April as Environmental Awareness Month.

Torres and Hocog signed the proclamation in the presence of staff members of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality.

April 22 has also been designated as CNMI Earth Day.

This year's theme is "Eco Friendly from the Mountains to the Sea." In line with this, BECQ will be offering events that are perfect for families to enjoy together: lab tours, snorkel day, tree giveaway, environmental expo, and an islandwide cleanup. BECQ will also have contests such as recycling competitions/phone book roundups, a boat building contest using recyclables, and a photography contest. Commonwealth residents are urged to take part in these activities, with the goal of keeping the environment healthy, clean, and beautiful.

The lab tour will give students insight on how it is to work in a laboratory and gain knowledge on the importance of testing water quality, on top of determining whether beaches are safe to swim in.

Snorkel Day is intended for families to see the ocean environment up close and get a workout for the day. They may bring their snorkel or use one of BECQ's.

BECQ will also host a tree giveaway. BECQ, in partnership with CNMI Forestry and NMC-CREES, will be giving out free native trees and plants. This will promote the reduction of harmful erosion impacts. This event will be held at the Flame Tree Arts Festival grounds, from 9am to 12pm.

One of the BECQ's main events for the month is the Environmental Expo, a two-day event. BECQ invites fourth grade students, educators, and the public to attend.

The Islandwide Cleanup will take place on April 28, 2016, from 2:30pm to 4:30pm.

BECQ, in partnership with IT&E, the Public School System, and private schools will have a program that is dedicated to collecting old phone books from Yellow Pages Inc. to promote the reduction of waste.

In the "Build-A-Boat" and race contests, school entries and individual entries are welcome. Participants will build and design unique boats out of recycled materials, then race them to the finish line in the waters off Kilili Beach.

The winner of the "Build-A-Boat" contest may win $400 if they win the overall award for Best Recycled Boat design, or $100 if they get the People's Choice award.

For the race, participants may win first place, "Sea Star" with a prize of $200, second place, "Sea Urchin" with a prize of $60, or third place, "Sea Cucumber," with a prize of $40. Participants who don't place in the top three will still receive consolation prizes.

The competition will be held on Saturday, April 8, and will start at 10:30am. Participants must show up at 9:30am for the boat design contest, followed by the race. For more information, contact Ryan Okano at 664-8500 or email him at oliviatenorio@becq.gov.mp.

BECQ will also host a photography contest called "Know Your Tides"; it will be open to the public. Participants must go out and take a picture of their favorite shore at high tide, low tide, or any tide in between. Entries must be sent through Facebook, or Instagram with the location and the tide category: high, low, rising or falling. Participants can use the tag #KnowYourTides to tag BECQ. This contest includes high school, and the general public. Winners will be determined based on first, most likes, second, most artistic, third, highest high tide, and fourth, lowest low tide.

(Kimberly A. Bautista)

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Better Together

Speaker: Proper agencies can investigate accident

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) would be informing Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) that proper agencies and department should do the investigation regarding the accident that happened at Imperial Pacific Resort's construction site last week.

A Chinese national fell to his death on March 22, prompting Propst to urge Demapan for the Legislature to hold an oversight hearing to know if safety measures were followed at Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's multi-million-dollar casino hotel project in Garapan.

Demapan said the accident was tragic and they share the grief of the family of the construction worker who died at the site.

"First, I would like to offer prayers and condolences to the family. It is really an unfortunate incident. I hope we could learn from this by ensuring that we all do our part and due diligence to prevent future accidents of all our workers in the CNMI."

"The Legislature is not in the business of investigation but rest assured that we're going to continue communicating with departments and agencies that are involved in this issue," said Demapan.

For now, the House won't do any oversight hearing on the accident. "I've talked to the acting [Judiciary and Governmental Operations] chairman to initiate communications with other departments and check the regulations regarding incidents like these, see how we can come in and support them."

Demapan said it is important that the House continue to communicate with proper agencies to make sure safety measures are always followed and are in place in every workplace. "We must respect the role and the protocols, the procedures in place to respond to and prevent such incidents from happening again."

He added the case is still under investigation and the whole process should be respected without jeopardizing the job being done by agencies like the Department of Public Safety and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

"We can't just jump into conclusions and have the Legislature come in. We have to let these agencies do their job. From there, we will have the [JGO] chair come in and talk to these agencies," said Demapan, who added that the local Department of Labor might also talk to some IPI officials regarding the incident.

House Gaming Committee chair Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) share Demapan's sentiments. "If this were any other construction project, will a member of the Legislature be requesting for us to do an oversight? It seems to be safety issues, OSHA is a federal agency that deals with these things. None of us are experts in this issue."

"There's OSHA on the island and they would investigate it. Leave it to the qualified people and experts to investigate. Let's see what the results are," said Deleon Guerrero, who added that IPI would again postpone the planned March 31 soft opening of its casino floor.

"I think that they're going to postpone it. They would request to push it back but there will be a soft opening."

ADVISER OF THE YEAR NMC

Northern Marianas College recently recognized NMC Business Instructor Barbara Hunter, center, as the 2017 NMC Academic Adviser of the Year for her commitment to providing quality service and mentorship to students. The award selection was based on a pool of student nominations. Hunter is joined here by the academic advising committee, which is composed of NMC staff and faculty members.

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IPI

From Page 1

15 deluxe villas.

In a regulatory filing at the Hong Kong Stocks Exchange, the Saipan casino operator's parent company, Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd., announced that Saipan's lone casino would open on March 31.

IPI Holdings said they expect the permanent casino site to be completed in time for Friday and will also be open to the public. "The hotel of the Imperial Pacific Resort will be opened in the second half of 2017."

In the same filing, the Hong Kong-based holding company said the initial gaming facility of their hotel casino will have 193 gaming tables and 365 slot machines, which is a significant increase compared to the 48 tables and 141 slot machines at their temporary facility inside the T Galleria Saipan.

CalvinAyre.com mentioned that the casino investor reportedly had gross revenues of $964.2 million in 2016, a significant increase from $871.56 million in year-on-year terms. IPI has also declared that they have already invested $343 million on their multi-million-dollar casino project as of December 2016.

Commonwealth Casino Commission vice chair Joseph C. Reyes said it would be up to the Department of Public Works if they would allow Imperial Pacific Resort to open tomorrow.

"That is still the question that's up in the air. We don't know if they would open or not."

"But I can tell you this, I don't think that they would be allowed to open without the proper permits. DPW is the one that would issue the certificate of occupancy, whether full or partial. A full occupancy permit is now impossible; whether DPW would grant them a conditional permit, that we don't know. It is better to ask DPW Secretary [James Ada]."

Capacity to pay

Reyes said they are also making sure IPI would comply with the minimum bankroll program that would assure players and other patrons they have the capacity to pay the winnings.

At least $15 million cash on hand is required in the minimum bankroll program, 1 percent of the casino's turnovers.

"Would you go and gamble—spend your money and win—only to learn the gambling facility could not pay you? If one patron could not be paid, the integrity of the commission would be in question because we failed to do our job," said Reyes.

"Our [casino commission] job is to make sure that the licensee does have enough cash and the capacity to pay the winners."

Another Bloomberg report

Financial media company Bloomberg came out with a report on Tuesday linking Esteem Capital Success Ltd. to Saipan's lone casino operator IPI.

Esteem Capital has been identified as the company that paid the fact-finding trip to Hong Kong and Macau by then-senator Ralph DLG Torres and other CNMI lawmakers.

CCC vice chair Reyes, in a telephone interview, said that Bloomberg's story is old news. "We don't know who their source is and whether we should look into it. This is already old news."

The administration, in a statement sent to *Saipan Tribune*, said that Torres was unaware of the Hong Kong court's judgment and he would not comment on the ruling.

"At the time the governor (when he was still a senator) took part in the fact-finding trips to Hong Kong and Macau, he was offered no reason to establish a connection between Esteem Capital and Imperial Pacific," the statement said.

"Only that Esteem Capital had and was in the business of promoting integrated resorts in Asia and other possible locations. The purpose of the trips was to experience first-hand the operations of integrated gaming resorts and to see if bringing such a business to the CNMI was something that could be done."

INJUNCTION

From Page 1

him about the need to investigate the matter.

"I already had a meeting with Attorney General Ed Manibusan about my concerns this afternoon. I expressed to him my concerns and I told him I would be writing a formal letter and I would be [furnishing] the Office of the Public Auditor [with a copy of the letter]. I want this investigated and looked into. We need to be very careful that we scrutinize this deal that has been made. [CUC] has been very secretive about this and it is time to shed some light on it," he said.

Propst assured that he will do all within his means to prevent the contract from going through. He described the contract as highly questionable and suspicious. "There are a lot of red flags."

If he will need to hire his own attorney, then he would do so. "This is not the way we are supposed to conduct meetings: rush through with an RFP [request for proposals] or use an emergency as the reason to purchase something so swiftly and expeditiously that there is no due diligence," he added.

Propst does not believe the process of procuring the new 8 to 10-megawatt generator has been in the works for some time. According to a source at CUC, the process did not go through the corporation's Procurement and Supply Division; it was "upper management" that handled the project.

Propst tried to obtain a copy of the request for proposal on the generator via an Open Government Act filed yesterday at about 2pm but "I still haven't received what I asked for, because it has to get approval from the legal counsel. Anyone should be able to get, at the very least, the request for quotation because that is public knowledge, that is a public document. Anybody could have applied for this RFP. Why did I not receive it yet? Are they stalling? Are they afraid I am going to uncover something?" asked Propst.

He recounted that during yesterday's CUC board meeting, discussion on the financing of the generator purchase was put under executive session, resulting in Propst being asked to leave. That only made him more suspicious about the transaction.

"I question them about the legitimacy of having an executive session to discuss the financing of the generator. I stated that it should be made public. I guess they didn't agree with me and went into a secretive executive session to discuss the financing of this generator," said Propst.

Propst's main concern with the procurement was the process and CUC's "questionable rush" to procure a generator based on the quotation of General Pacific Services Marianas Inc., or GPSM, represented by Amelia R. Toelkes, along with GPSM business partner, Fairbanks Moores.

Amelia Toelkes is the wife of Robert Toelkes, who is currently a defendant in the M/V *Luta* case filed by Japanese investor Takahisa Yamamoto.

Robert Toelkes' company in Guam, International Bridge Corp., filed for bankruptcy last year and failed to finish its project at the Guam JFK High School, another aspect that furthers the lawmaker's suspicion.

"I asked [CUC] several questions [yesterday], and they didn't answer any of them and basically got upset with me because they claimed I didn't attend enough meetings and that this is my first time to attend the meeting, which is besides the point," said Propst.

CUC board pushes through with genset purchase

After an executive session discussion on financing the generator purchase, a decision was made by the CUC board yesterday to push through with the procurement.

Despite the many unanswered questions surrounding the procurement, CUC board member Eric San Nicolas justified the purchase and the procurement process, even referring to the latter as "open and transparent, contrary to what Mr. Propst said."

According to San Nicolas, the board decided to proceed with the emergency procurement after declaring an emergency within the board.

CUC was recently informed by Imperial Pacific International that their energy consumption would increase by 5 megawatts come the end of the month. According to San Nicolas, CUC board member Joe Torres was approached by the resort about the additional power demand.

"We made a declaration of emergency on the board, so that would allow us to go through the emergency procurement process for this particular engine because of the power needs of Saipan, especially with Imperial Pacific Resort and everything coming up. We just heard from director Joe Torres that IPi demand goes up by 5 megawatts next month, and the expectation is that it would just keep going up as time passes," said San Nicolas, justifying the emergency purchase.

"We do not have the engines needed to support [the additional demand]," he added.

San Nicolas also pointed out that CUC's generator 8 has not been functional for about eight years.

The new diesel generator would cost a little over $11.7 million—money that San Nicolas said CUC has after receiving payments from government agencies, including the payments of the central government and the Public School System.

"We have verified with the CUC chief financing officer that we have the funding to procure one now. This drastically shortens the time, which is justified by the emergency," he said. "We are looking at the soonest possible option."

The CUC board also voted to produce a negotiating committee for the generator, composed of CUC board chair Adelina Roberto, along with other members of her choosing.

Once negotiations have been finalized, Roberto, who has been authorized by the CUC board, would then approve the purchase process.

"At the end of the day, the goal is to replace engines. Saipan engines are in need of replacement," added San Nicolas.

FIRM

From Page 1

"credible" the overall testimony of a Chinese gambler who said that Ji Xiaobo and Cai Lingli were representatives of a firm called Esteem Capital Success Ltd. in the fall of 2013. Ji's mother owns a controlling stake in casino operator Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd., while Cai is its executive director. Ji was the Saipan casino's project manager as of November, the company said then.

This is the first time a link has been drawn between Esteem Capital and Imperial Pacific, which in a November interview said it never had any connections to the firm. The trips taken by Saipan legislators, including then-senator Ralph Torres, to Hong Kong and Macau were arranged by Esteem, according to Torres, who is now the territory's governor. Esteem was not among bidders for Saipan's first-ever casino license. Soon after the trips that were taken from late 2013, Imperial Pacific won the bidding, gaining exclusive rights to operate a casino in the Pacific territory.

The trips raised questions at the time, with critics of the license process alleging that the gaming bill passed by the legislature benefited the investor group that had brought the legislators to Hong Kong and Macau, the Saipan Tribune reported in 2014.

Imperial Pacific declined to comment on the relationship between Imperial Pacific and Esteem Capital or the language in the court's judgment. Esteem Capital is not listed in company registries in Hong Kong or China.

Torres was "offered no reason to establish a connection between Esteem Capital and Imperial Pacific" when he traveled to Hong Kong and Macau to observe the operation of integrated casino resorts, he said in an email through a representative. Torres was told that Esteem was in the business of promoting such resorts in Asia, he said. The governor was unaware of the Hong Kong judgment and said he couldn't comment on it.

Same address

The court decision included testimony that described Ji's office, listed on a business card bearing his name and that of Esteem Capital, as the same 70th-floor suite in Hong Kong's International Finance Center skyscraper that since last year has housed Imperial Pacific's corporate headquarters.

In a Hong Kong exchange filing in 2011, the same suite was listed as the address for a subsidiary of Simsen International that was identified in the court decision. Ji held a 9 percent stake in Simsen in 2014. The suite was occupied by the Simsen unit up until Imperial Pacific took it over, according to the building's reception.

In the Hong Kong case, a Simsen subsidiary sued Chinese gambler Jiang Quanlong for allegedly not paying back more than HK$212 million ($27 million) in loans.

Ji's mother, mainland Chinese entrepreneur Cui Lijie, owns about 64 percent of Hong Kong-listed Imperial Pacific, according to a Hong Kong exchange filing in October. Cai, Imperial Pacific's executive director, was described in the court testimony as Ji's secretary at Esteem.

Imperial Pacific's casino on remote Saipan, dubbed Best Sunshine Live, has attracted attention throughout the gambling industry for posting per-table VIP revenues far greater than those of the largest facilities in Macau, Asia's gambling capital. The company has said that success is due in part to wealthy Chinese bettors choosing to take the roughly five-hour flight to the Pacific island rather than going to Macau, sometimes betting millions of dollars at a time.

Competitor lawsuit

A competing bidder for Saipan's sole gambling license alleged in an unsuccessful 2014 lawsuit that local lawmakers had illegally received "significant benefits" from casino investors, and that regulators had refused to investigate whether Imperial Pacific was linked to them. A spokeswoman for Torres said in November there is no evidence to support allegations of improper benefits to legislators.

ERRATUM

In a story published in yesterday's issue of *Saipan Tribune* titled "Airport runway lights delayed," it was erroneously reported that the Saipan International Airport closes the runway from 6am to 5pm. According to Commonwealth Ports Authority board member Barrie Toves, the time the runway closes is actually from 6pm to 12am. "CPA encourages the airlines to move their schedules to the hours of 6am to 5pm to work with us in addressing the congestion and long lines we are experiencing between 12am to dawn," added Toves. We apologizes for the error.

Members of the Pacific Islands Health Officers' Association members along with employees from the Commonwealth Healthcare Center attend the 61st executive board meeting yesterday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

ERWIN ENCINARES

PIHOA discusses NCD's in Pacific

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The growing threat of non-communicable diseases in the Pacific is so widespread that it was the main topic of discussion on the first day of the Pacific Islanders Health Officers Association meeting on Saipan.

According to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, World Health Organization, and the Centers for Disease Control provide much needed support in the fight against NCD's. The problem, however, is widespread throughout the region.

"The CNMI, just like Guam, is stumped. How do you lower the numbers?" asked Muña.

She believes that everything boils down to funding. With sufficient funding, treatment becomes more accessible and less taxing for the healthcare system—a wonderland that seems far beyond reach in the region.

"Across the world, in regards to funding, all of the numbers are going up. When you look at the Pacific, the numbers are just straight," said Muña. That means the Pacific region gets less funding in the fight against NCD's.

"It's all about funding. There are a lot of challenges," she added.

She cited the need for Hemoglobin A1c test, or HGBA1c test, for diabetics. The test is used to monitor the glucose level in the blood. The test is one of many to ensure blood glucose levels remain healthy It must be taken multiple times in a year, which Muña said is very costly.

"That in itself is very expensive," she said.

That's not including medical supplies. "We spend thousands of dollars almost everyday on medical supplies," Muña said, adding that purchase orders for CHCC sometimes reach about $20,000.

"We all know that there is a problem and [CHCC] staff has done a lot of outreach on how to address it."

Hosted this year by CHCC, the 61st executive board meeting of PIHOA at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan will run for five days. It is being attended by health leaders across the Pacific, including members from Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, Saipan, and the Freely Associated States, which include the Marshall Islands, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

FSM Health Secretary Magdalena Walters agrees that concern about NCD's in the Pacific is growing.

"We didn't used to have these problems. Now, we are facing problems such as diabetes, cancer, heart problems, hypertension, arthritis, and other problems. It is a big issue for us now," she said.

Nationwide, the two leading causes of deaths in 2015 were heart disease and cancer; diabetes was ranked seventh.

According to statistics obtained from CHCC, for calendar years 2011-2014, there was a total of 491 recorded deaths caused by NCD's, which translates to 65 percent of deaths for the period, with circulatory disease or heart disease leading. The three top causes of NCD deaths in the CNMI are cancers, endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic diseases, and diseases of the respiratory system, with total numbers for the period exceeding 50 for the latter two and a total of 133 deaths due to cancer.

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MVA

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, standing center, welcomes members of a familiarization tour on March 16, 2017, at Aqua Resort Club Saipan.

MVA expands SE Asian partnerships

The Marianas Visitors Authority continues to expand its Asian travel trade partnerships to other countries including Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia with a recent familiarization tour.

The tour, held on March 15-19, 2017, is another step in MVA's expanded reach beyond the Marianas' primary source markets of Korea, China, and Japan.

The tour was held in cooperation with Philippine Airlines and highlights the increased accessibility of the Marianas to international travelers via the Philippines.

Travel trade companies joining the familiarization tour included: Top 1 Travel Service Corp. Sdn Bhd, Sin Chung Tours Sbd Bhd, Star Travel, Joyful Holidays Co. Ltd., Viettours, Go Holiday Co. Ltd., Antavaya Travel, Chan Brothers Travel, and Giamso International Tours.

"With a growing number of international flights to the Saipan International Airport, the Marianas is more accessible than ever to travelers seeking a unique travel experience," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "The connection on Philippine Airlines through Manila opens a whole new world of travelers for us, and this [familiarization] tour will help get the word out."

The tour members experience a wide variety of activities, including snorkeling, parasailing, and scuba diving on Managaha, a submarine tour, and a tour of scenic and historic sites on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan.

Dining experiences included Aqua Resort Club Saipan, Joyful Dinner Show at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, dinner at Kensington Hotel Saipan, Saipan SandCastle cocktail show, JC Café, dinner at Best Sunshine Live, and Rota Resort & Country Club.

The group also inspected Hyatt Regency Saipan, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Saipan World Resort, Kanoa Resort, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Coral Ocean Golf Resort, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Kensington Hotel Saipan, Best Sunshine Live gaming facility, and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, where they lodged during their tour. ***(MVA)***

(AMENDED)
Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, April 12, 2017
5:00 PM, Zoning Board Conference Room
2nd Fl., Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 3/02/17 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (*not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)*

B. Public Hearings: None.

C. Communication

D. Old Business
1. Board review of revised parking plan by Saipan Globe International Group, Ltd. dba Saipan Globe Hotel, Conditional Use Permit No. 2016-4038 and Zoning Parking Variance No. 2016-4303

E. New Business
1. Proposed text and map amendments of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013
2. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous
a. Other Matters
b. Announcements
c. Next Meeting

H. Adjourn

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
for
Cery Incorporated dba Cery Store

CANCELLED

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Cyna Cery, Incorporated dba Cery Store is proposing to occupy an existing building to operate a Mom & Pop Grocery Store. This use is classified as "Mom & Pop Grocery Store" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on TR 22559-3-1 in Fina Sisu. Zoned as Village Residential.

Date: April 06, 2017
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd Fl. Joeten Dandan Comm'l Bldg.

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, April 05, 2017. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (1 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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Fax: (670) 664-2408

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
For the ASSESSMENT of the FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM at the DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS in SUSUPE, SAIPAN
RFP17-GOV-114

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog through the Capital Improvement Office (CIP), (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors for the **Assessment of the Fire Sprinkler System at the Department of Correction Facility** in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

The project package is available at the Governor's CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A pre-proposal meeting regarding this project will be held on Friday, April 7, 2017, 10:00 a.m. at the CIP Office in Capitol Hill. Questions regarding the Request for Proposals shall be addressed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia, P.E., Project Manager, CIP Office, at esb.cip@gmail.com or facsimile (670) 664-2408 no later than 4:00 p.m., ChST, April 17, 2017.

The total proposal length shall not exceed 15 pages in length. A contractor that submits a proposal as a prime contractor cannot also submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, a company may be included in multiple proposals by different contractors.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications and experience on similar projects	40%
2. Past Performance with Similar Projects	40%
3. Cost	20%

Performance time for completion of this project is 120 calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 120 calendar days, the contract price will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top 3 ranked contractors. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified contractor to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 70-30.3-245 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Proposals must be sealed and marked RFP17-GOV- "Assessment of the Fire Sprinkler System at the Department of Correction Facility" in Susupe, Saipan. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than 10:00 a.m. C hST, April 26, 2017. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of intent to propose.

Notices of intent to propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., ChST, April 26, 2017 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com.

For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than April 26, 2017 and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than May 5, 2017. Failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Ralph DLG. Torres, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Herman S. Sablan
Director of Procurement & Supply

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BARETLEY DAMASO DEMAPAN, Petitioner, vs. MYCA DIANNE LIANES ORIGENES DEMAPAN, Respondent,) FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0007 **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 505419 CK, Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at PO Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 4th day of January, 2017.
/s/ Clerk of Court

Torres considers USDA loan to rejuvenate NMI infrastructure

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres plans to take advantage of the Trump administration's plan for a national infrastructure program by taking out a low-interest federal loan that would be used to rejuvenate the islands' infrastructure.

Trump earlier said he would ask Congress to approve a $1-trillion infrastructure bill that could fulfill one of his campaign promises.

Torres met with Republican lawmakers on Tuesday at the Governor's Office conference room to talk about the U.S. Department of Agriculture's low-interest loans and federal gran programs.

The USDA's interest rate on federal loans ranges from 2.67 to 2.8 percent.

"We discussed how we could revitalize our government needs through our infrastructure. It is about time for us to look into addressing our infrastructure,' said Torres. "[We] want to get a federal loan to fund the infrastructure development that we need. Now is the best time for us to float a loan or a bond that is low in interest. Our economy is growing, so we would able to pay for it, refinance our current bonds and get a low-interest loan."

Bonds are debt investment where investors borrow money from a certain financial institution for a certain period of time that carries a fixed interest rate. Companies, governments, municipalities, and states use bonds to finance their projects.

Torres said several government agencies, especially the autonomous ones, have bonds. "We've never seen this low interest before and we would like to be able to lock on that low interest rates.

"This government right now has bonds from [the Commonwealth Ports Authority], the CNMI Court, Settlement Fund, and we also have CHCC, I think. There are certain departments that have floated bonds," said Torres. "We want to refinance that through USDA loans, that's the discussion with the Legislature."

He also talked with GOP legislators about the need to address land compensation as a whole, including judgments and other settlements to be made by the CNMI government.

Team Bodig 2nd coin drive today

Team Bodig will hold its second coin drive today, Thursday, March 30, 2017, from 3:30pm to 6pm at the Atkins Kroll Toyota intersection on Beach Road. Everyone is invited to drive by, show their support, and to drop a donation in the team members' buckets to raise funds for a worth cause.

Should you have any questions or would like to help support Team Bodig, the point of contact for Team Bodig is team captain Bridgette Camacho at (670) 287-6772 or email at bridgette.camacho@gmail.com or team co-captain Carlyn DLG-Hofschneider at (670) 483-5816 or email at carlynbodig@gmail.com.

This year's Marianas March Against Cancer has been scheduled to take place on May 5 and 6 at the Hopwood Middle School campus field located in Chalan Piao.

For more information on the main event contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at (670) 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

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MULTI PURPOSE CENTER
April 1, Saturday & April 2, Sunday
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Doors open 6:00 pm
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Power outages on April 1, 4

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Saturday, April 1, 2017, from 5:30am to 10:30am and on Tuesday, April 4, 2017, from 9am to 2pm.

In the first outage, it is intended to de-energize the primary lines to allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to safely replace eight wooden power poles with concrete poles along Alageta Rd. in Kagman 2. This will affect CUC customers in Kagman 2. Water wells to be affected include KG-7, KG-8, KG-9, KG-14, and KG-15.

On Tuesday, CUC line crew will replace five wooden power poles with concrete poles along Chalan Tun Herman Pan in front of Sky Chefs. Areas to be affected are POI Aviation, Delta Cargo, United Cargo, Sky Chefs, CUC Sand Filtration, Airport Mobil and Red Cross. Water wells to be affected include IF-4, IF-7, and IF-8.

Both projects are part of an ongoing FEMA Hazard Mitigation Program to strengthen and harden the integrity of the power distribution system throughout Saipan. Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for updates (https://www.facebook.com/Commonwealth UtilitiesCorporation/). ***(CUC)***

Navy vet testifies how he was assaulted

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In the ongoing jury trial of David James Aguon, Navy veteran Christopher Broome told the court yesterday about how he was assaulted at the White and Black Bar in Garapan in March 2016.

This developed as Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho, who is presiding over the trial, struck down yesterday police detective Flora Aguon's identification of the suspect by his weight.

Camacho said that the officer's identification of Aguon was made in the presence of the jury, and the jury must again be instructed to disregard the identification.

Flora Aguon is the government's first witness in the case.

Last week, Camacho said that assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub committed prosecutorial misconduct by deliberately disobeying the court's suppression order.

Specifically, Camacho determined that, by asking Flora Aguon about the weight of the attacker, then asking her to estimate the suspect's weight, and then asking that the record reflect that the individual pointed out the suspect, Weintraub had circumvented the court's suppression order to have the detective identify the suspect as the attacker.

At defense attorney Matthew Holley's cross-examination yesterday, Broome, 53, said he drank about two to three beers from another bar in Garapan that night of March 5, 2016, before going to the White and Black Bar.

Broome said he and some friends then walked to the White and Black Bar, where he consumed four or five beers.

Inside the bar, Broome said someone hit him in the face, but he had no idea who because the punch came from the "blind side."

The punch allegedly knocked him out. He admitted not knowing whether he was hit with a fist or a bottle.

Broome said that, as a result of his nasal injuries, he is now experiencing breathing problems and could not dive.

Broome said he met David Aguon before the incident, but he does not recall seeing and shaking hands with him at the bar. Broome said he does not recall shouting at David Aguon that he (Broome) was a Navy diver for 14 years.

Holley pointed out that David Aguon, who is from Guam, does not deny shaking hands with Broome at the bar.

Broome denied telling a doctor at the Commonwealth Health Center, where he was taken for treatment, that he had consumed 20 beers that night.

He also does not recall having a dispute with a bartender and bumping some people at the bar. He admitted he was possibly drunk that night.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom late afternoon yesterday, a friend of Broome was still on the witness stand. The witness testified he was not inside the bar when Broome was assaulted.

The trial will resume today at 10am.

Police said Broome was taken to the hospital due to injuries to his nose that required seven stitches.

Police said Broome told a police officer that he was punched in the face and was knocked out at White and Black Bar.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-17-IFB-006

SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF STOREFRONT DOOR/WINDOWS FOR THE OFFICE OF AGING, ROTA

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) is soliciting sealed bids for the Supply, Delivery and Installation of Storefront Door/Windows for the Office of Aging, Rota Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **March 23, 2017** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

Breach of Ethical Standard

• ***Gratuities.*** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept, or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor.
• ***Kickbacks.*** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of a subcontractor or order.
• ***Contingent fees.*** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **April 12, 2017, 9:00 a.m. local time** at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **April 27, 2017** to Mr. **Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.
The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW-17-IFB-006**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, May 2, 2017**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, May 2, 2017**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **May 2, 2017** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **May 11, 2017.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, May 16, 2017**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on May 2, 2017**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245.** The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is Sixty (60) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of One Hundred (US$100.00) for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW17-IFB-010

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF ROLL-OFF TRUCK WITH CABLE HOIST & TARPING SYSTEM TO THE LOWER BASE TRANSFER STATION, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW), is soliciting sealed bids for the Supply and Delivery of Roll-Off Truck with Cable Hoist and Tarping System to the Lower Base Transfer Station (LBTS), Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **March 16, 2017** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located 2nd Floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars **($50.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect.

Breach of Ethical Standard
• ***Gratuities.*** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept, or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor. **NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725 (a)**

• ***Kickbacks.*** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of a subcontractor or order. **NMIAC 70-30.3-725 (b)**

• ***Contingent fees.*** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for securing business. **NMIAC 70-30.3-730**

There will be a **mandatory Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **April 4, 2017, 9:30 a.m., local time, at the Solid Waste Management Division Office Conference Room, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan.** The Prospective bidders are highly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Roll-Off Truck and Roll-Off Bins currently in-use at the LBTS. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **May 30, 2017** to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 p.m. to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the **roll-off truck and the roll-off bins currently in-use at LBTS**, and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division Office by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW-17-IFB-010**." For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, June 2, 2017**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, June 2, 2017**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **June 2, 2017** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **June 14, 2017**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, June 16, 2017**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on June 2, 2017**.

For bids, greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:
1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is one-hundred-twenty **(120) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **Three Hundred (US$300.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

OIA OKs $4M for CUC Tank 102 rehabilitation

MD: The Office of Insular Affairs has authorized the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to rehabilitate an oil tank for $4,019,000.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of Insular Affairs has authorized the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to rehabilitate Tank 103 in Lower Base for $4,019,000.

Special assistant attorney general Teresita J. Sablan has informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI about OIA's authorization on Monday.

OIA grants management specialist Keith W. Aughenbaugh notified CUC acting executive director Gary Camacho that OIA has reviewed the record of environmental consideration for the repair of Tank 103 and its secondary containment as required by stipulated order 2 and in accordance with the tank inspection report.

Aughenbaugh said the documentation is in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality Regulations, and DOI NEPA Regulations, and Draft Departmental Manual.

Tank 103 is CUC's only aboveground storage tank that can hold more than a day's supply of fuel. The tank was shut down due to leaks. The leak reportedly contributes to oil contamination at power plants 1 and 2.

Last week, OIA authorized CUC to develop a waste management plan for power plants 1 and 2 in the amount of $777,000.

6 to benefit from Hyatt golf classic

This year's Hyatt Regency Saipan Charity Golf Classic is a special one as it marks its 1st anniversary. What started as a small, golf game has grown into a charitable golf tournament.

With a large submission of request letters, the executive committee agreed to add a few more beneficiaries, with a total of six for this year.

"Hyatt Regency Saipan has been a part of the community for 37 years, and, for 21 of our 37 years we hosted a popular golf tournament. Along with our business partners, we saw the opportunity to give back to the community. Although we are unsure of how much longer Hyatt will be a part of the CNMI, we will do what we have been doing for many years—continuing to support our community," said general manager Nick Nishikawa.

The Hyatt Regency Saipan 21st Annual Charity Golf Classic beneficiaries are the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Kagman High School Million Dollar Club, Marianas Behavioral Health International, Karidat, Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation, and the Northern Marianas Humanities Council.

Hyatt Regency Saipan will hold its 21st Annual Charity Golf Classic event at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort west course on Saturday, April 22, 2017. For more information, contact 234-1234 Ext. 26. ***(PR)***

United's Guam employees win safety award

United Airlines' Guam employees have received a prestigious gold safety award. The Guam hub worked diligently to achieve gold status in United's Safety Excellence Program.

The Safety Excellence Program is designed to reduce recordable and lost-time injuries of employees as well as aircraft damage. United modeled its program after the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Voluntary Protection Programs.

"We are very pleased to honor our Guam team with a gold safety award," said Greg Hart, United's executive vice president and chief operations officer. "The award recognizes the hub's outstanding commitment to ensuring the safety of our employees. Safety is at the core of everything we do at United, and we sincerely appreciate the Guam team's focus on safety."

The Safety Excellence Program recognizes locations for good safety performance and culture. The certification process measures results in process knowledge, application, reductions in occupational injury, and aircraft damage rates. The gold award means achieving better than industry average.

"As Guam's hometown airline, we are proud of our team's dedication and hard work," said Sam Shinohara, United's managing director of Operations Asia/Pacific. "The gold safety award is a great milestone achievement for Guam. Guam won a silver safety award in December 2010 so we are thrilled to reach an even higher tier this year. We are committed to continuing to work hard to maintain the safety of our employees and aircraft." ***(PR)***

FROM THE
MOUNTAIN
TO THE
Sea
ECO FRIENDLY
Know your Tides
A CITIZEN SCIENCE PHOTO CONTEST
Environmental Awareness Month: BECQ/DCRM
"Eco-friendly from the mountain to the sea"
Climate Change and Tides:
Climate change will cause sea levels to rise. Most of this water will be stored in the Pacific Ocean, and islands like Saipan will feel the effects. In the future high tides will come more landward than they currently do. Future low tides might start where today's high tides stop.
We can document this long term change through photographs and tide charts. Each of these serves as a record of tidal change. Documenting high tides now can help us know how future sea level rise might affect us.
Photographs
Please upload your photo of high tide or low tide from April 1—April 9 for Environmental Awareness Month.
Photographing tides is one way to help planners and natural resource managers prepare for the impacts of climate change. Ideally, you'll want your image to capture the highest water line or the lowest water line. However, all images and associated data are helpful for the objectives of the Citizen Science project.
Take your photo facing parallel to the shoreline. If available, include some sort of feature in your picture – wall, bunkers, docks, or rocks make good markers.
How these photos are used:
1. Document current tidal change in coastal areas
2. Visualize the impacts of future sea level rise in the community
3. Ground-truth and validate models by comparing predictions with reality.
4. Serve as a living record of change for future generations
APRIL 1-APRIL 8
Predicted WL
Height (Feet relative to MLLW)
Date/Time (LST)
APRIL 9-APRIL 11
Predicted WL
Height (Feet relative to MLLW)
Date/Time (LST)
NOAA Tide Charts: Tanapag Harbor, Saipan Island, Station ID 163327
Rules
Open contest dates are: April 1 – April 9, 2017
Submit:
All photos must be uploaded by 12:00 am April 10, 2017.
Facebook, Instagram, twitter.
Label: #KnowYourTides#DCRM#EAM
Facebook, Instagram, twitter
Caption: Date, Time, Location, Your Name, HighTide/Lowtide
** All tides must be accurately marked to win.
Categories:
General Public, 9-12 grade, 6-8th grade.
General Public –1st, 2nd, 3rd, Most likes
9-12 grade: 1st, Most Likes
6-8 grade: 1st, Most likes
Judges: Chelu Photography, BECQ
Prizes: A take home 12x18 canvas print of your photo
Your photo displayed at BECQ/DCRM events
on a 3" x 4" canvas

Northern Marianas College
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Website: http://www.marianas.edu

Announcement No. 17-017
Position Title: Extension Aide I
Department: Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service (CREES)
Pay Level & Step: 10/02 Annual Salary: $15,067.80
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: March 23, 2017
Closing Date: April 03, 2017 or Until Filled

Applications must be submitted by 4:40 pm on the closing date. If there are no qualified applicants or the set of qualified applicants is deemed an insufficient pool, the closing date will be extended for two-week periods for further submission and review of applications until the search is closed. Deadlines that fall on a non-business day will be extended to the next business day. All salaries are subject to availability of funds. The College is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
INVITATION TO BID
ITB17-CHCC/ZIKA-002
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 19, 2017 TIME: 11:00A.M.
BID OPENING DATE: APRIL 19, 2017 TIME: 11:30A.M.
"COMPUTERS & ACCESSORIES – ZIKA BIRTH DEFECTS SURVEILLANCE INTERVENTION & REFERRAL TO SERVICES PROGRAM, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"
COPIES OF THE ITB PACKET MAY BE PICKED-UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION – MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.
THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.
/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Bumblebee needs protection for humans' sake

In January, before President Barack Obama left office, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service scheduled the rusty patched bumblebee to be listed on the endangered species list on Feb. 10 _ and with good reason.

The population of rusty patched bumblebees, which used to be abundant in 28 states, has suffered a devastating decline of nearly 90 percent over two decades. At the current rate of decline, it is expected to be extinct within a few years.

There's no underestimating the importance of bumblebees to the natural order. While their busyness doesn't yield honey for your tea and toast, the nest-dwelling fuzzy pollinators are vital to the process that produces fruit, seeds and nuts. The rusty patched bumblebees are the first of continental America's domestic bee population to be listed under the Endangered Species Act. Seven species of bees in Hawaii are also on the endangered list.

On Feb. 9, the day before they were to be officially listed as endangered, the Trump administration temporarily froze all new federal regulations. The rusty patched bumblebee's status was suddenly thrown into limbo at a time when protections are needed most.

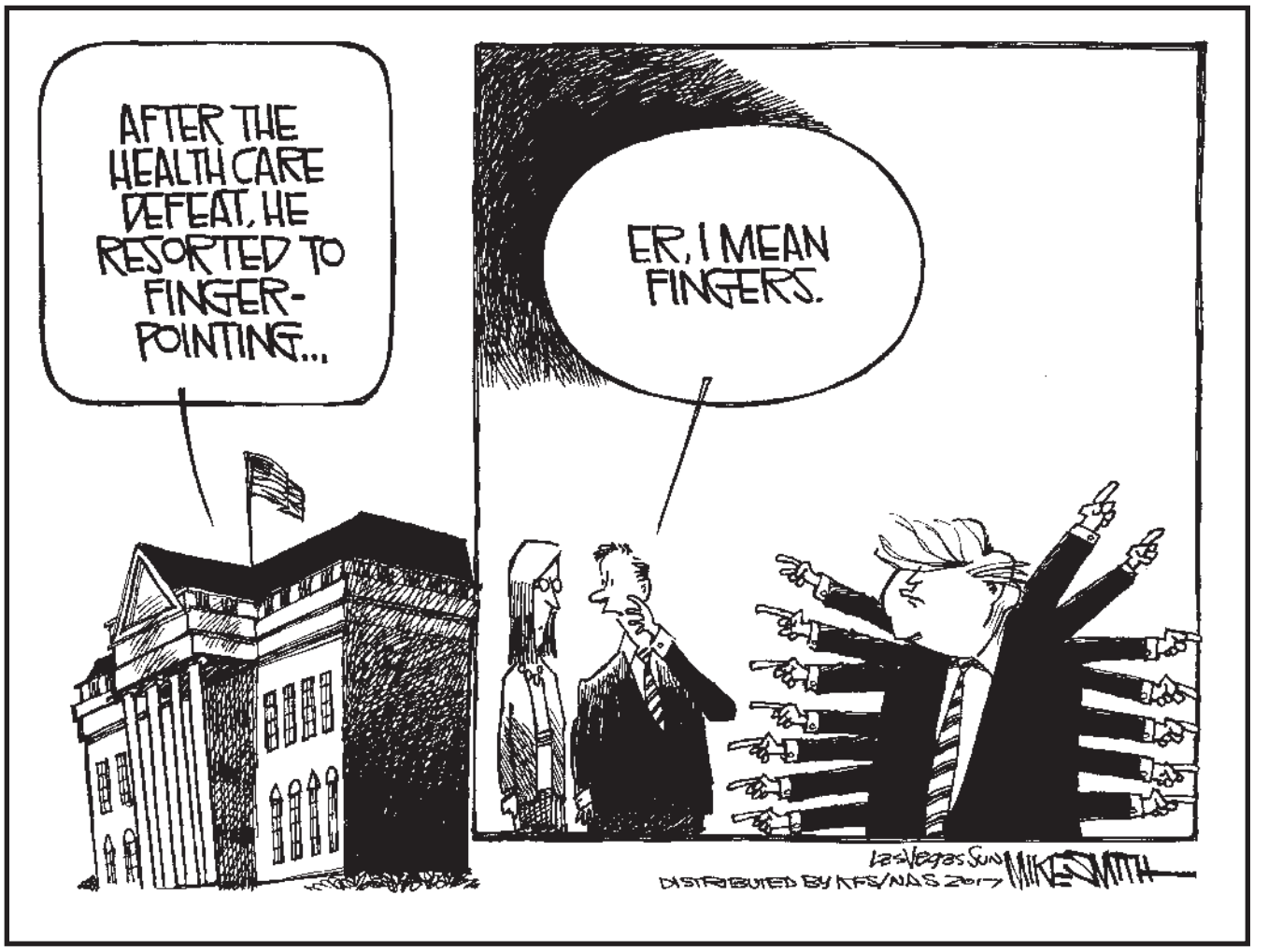
As a presidential candidate, Donald Trump vowed that he would freeze all new regulations and order a thorough review of environmental regulations. He insisted that regulations put American business at a competitive disadvantage.

The Natural Resources Defense Council sued the Trump administration in federal court for delaying the bumblebees' listing as an endangered species, arguing that it was a violation of the law.

Fortunately, the Trump administration reversed its position and is allowing the rusty patched bumblebee to be listed. This will mean that bee habitats and the dwindling number of places they can be found can be protected from companies and individuals that would harm them.

This could not have been an easy call for an administration taking a skeptical look at environmental regulations, but it is the right call. Besides, it wouldn't have only been a species of bumblebee that felt the sting of extinction. It would've been everyone dependent on the fruits of the bees' labor, as well.

(c)2017 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette


AFTER THE HEALTH CARE DEFEAT, HE RESORTED TO FINGER-POINTING...
ER, I MEAN FINGERS.
Las Vegas Sun
DISTRIBUTED BY KFS/NAS 2017
MIKE SMITH

Forget fighter jets, we need mules

By JUDITH MATLOFF
LOS ANGELES TIMES

President Donald Trump has called our military "a disaster," and he wants to remake it with a $54 billion increase in defense spending. He imagines the cash infusion will go toward big ships, aircraft carriers and fighter jets.

Most experts believe that the world's largest expeditionary force is actually in good shape. But if a partial overhaul is inevitable, the new administration would be wise to limit flashy, big-ticket items and consider stocking up on mules and ropes for specially trained mountain troops.

Remember how Osama bin Laden, then America's Public Enemy No. 1, hid out in the mountains of Afghanistan after the 9/11 attacks? Remember how we failed to capture him in the Battle of Tora Bora?

Many of our current adversaries still lurk in mountainous regions—that's where rogues and militants often go. All the groups that our government has attempted to suppress with drones and special forces and military advisers—al-Qaida, the Taliban, Islamic State, Boko Haram and the "bad hombres" of Mexico among them—take to the hills when other sanctuaries fail. We can expect drug cartels and jihadists to continue to dig into mountain redoubts.

Looking beyond counter-insurgency efforts, tough talk about North Korea raises the specter of fighting in that bumpy peninsula. And then there's the Norwegian High North, where 330 American troops recently were deployed to bolster NATO's Arctic front against an increasingly aggressive Russia.

At the moment, the U.S. military churns out one-size-fits-all generalists who can fight in cities or deserts. There's some logic to that approach, of course, and yet it ignores the fact that high-altitude combat is fundamentally different. At over 14,000 feet, most of us—soldier or civilian—can't function. The majority of American soldiers have never climbed that high, and gradual acclimatization is needed to adapt to even 10,000 feet. It's not just the human body, besides, that fails in the mountains. Tanks and helicopters often can't operate in rugged and extreme heights. Manned airplanes can't land.

Because advanced technology may disappoint or is simply not useful at harsh elevations, troops need to know how to rappel and shoot guns on skis, how to pack an animal or use a hauling line to evacuate casualties.

Although U.S. fighters in World War II were well-prepared for mountain battles in Europe, they since have lost that edge.

Consider Operation Anaconda, the United States' first major battle in Afghanistan and its highest ever. In the Shahikot Valley near the border with Pakistan in 2002, military brass didn't take into account the effect of a rapid rise from 5,000 to 10,000 feet, and their soldiers collapsed from altitude sickness. Throughout the troop-intensive portion of that ongoing war, our commanders didn't always know what mountain gear was available in warehouses, or soldiers didn't know how to use it properly or their superiors didn't let them access it.

Since that time, the military has tried to improve the situation. To enhance mobility, soldiers pack water-purifying tablets instead of heavy water canisters. The Army replaced boot models that fell apart quickly on rock and issued layerable clothing, the kind available in civilian camping stores that can wick moisture and adapt to rapidly shifting climates. But we remain the only major power that lacks a dedicated mountain force.

Many of our NATO allies have expert mountain units that train for months, as do India, Israel, Switzerland, Pakistan, Colombia, Russia and China. The latter two have been expanding their mountain preparedness in recent years. By contrast, only a few hundred infantrymen each year attend the U.S. Army's mountain warfare training center in Jericho, Ver., for just two weeks. Our Army spends approximately $800,000 annually on the school, which is not even a rounding error in a defense budget that tops $600 billion. The Marines Corps, likewise, lacks dedicated mountain career units ready for deployment at any moment.

Mountain warfare preparation is not routinely part of the training a U.S. battalion or brigade undergoes before deployment, says Lester Grau, a retired lieutenant colonel who is one of our country's leading scholars on such combat. In his many articles and books, Grau asserts that most American soldiers and Marines lack the proper equipment or skills to move around mountain terrain.

Throughout history, mountain dwellers have resisted better-armed conventional forces not only because they hold the literal high ground but because they knew how to navigate the topography and brutal weather conditions.

Mountains have daunted generals since Hannibal lost half his men crossing the Alps in 218 B.C. For all his grand theories, Mao Tse-tung could not dominate the 16,000-foot ranges during his long march in 1934-35, and he was carried part of the way while his men died of diarrhea and exhaustion. The 1915 Battle of Sarikamish, in which Turkey launched a winter invasion of Russia in the mountains, provides another cautionary tale about conventional forces unschooled in mountain warfare.

In the near future, our troops could well be deployed to high

See FORGET on Next Page

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THE CONSUMER CAUTION CORNER

Protecting consumers' personal information: A guide for business

By MICHAEL J. CYGANEK
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

This week, the Office of the Attorney General's "Consumer Caution Corner" seeks to educate consumers and businesses about the substantial risks involved when businesses engage in the collection of consumers' sensitive personal information and subsequently mishandle it resulting in hackers gaining cyber access and/or intruders/thieves gaining physical access. In either scenario, consumers, businesses, and the overall economy are all adversely impacted by the mishandling and theft of sensitive personal information.

How do data security breaches adversely impact consumers, businesses, and the overall economy?

■ **The Consumer:** The consumer and her or his family will very likely become the victim(s) of identity theft (as detailed in previous weeks' articles) or other fraudulent/blackmail behavior, which could lead to devastating financial loss and/or substantial damage to one's credit score. The damage to the consumer's credit score could frankly lead to incalculable damage, depending on how long the consumer was unaware of her or his identity being stolen. For example, when formally borrowing money from a lender, a consumer with a low credit score will typically pay higher interest rates than a consumer with a high credit score because the consumer with the low credit score is perceived by the lender as more prone to default, given their bad credit score.

■ **The Business**: If the business does not have proper safeguards in place and/or mishandles the consumers' personal information leading to a data breach, this can immediately threaten the livelihood of the business by subjecting it to substantial data breach costs, losing customers' trust and business, hurting its goodwill, violations of state and federal law, and even private lawsuits brought by consumers.

■ **The Economy**: Data security breaches leading to the theft of consumers' personal information adversely impacts the overall economy as these acts of theft and fraud impose increased burdens on businesses to invest capital in security measures rather than the growth of the company. The unfortunate reality is that businesses that have to incur these additional costs are often forced to pass down these costs to consumers in the form of higher prices of products and services. To best avoid these issues, always have a security plan in place.

FTC's five key principles to a sound data security plan?

For starters, the FTC takes the position that a sound data security plan is built on five key principles:

1) **TAKE STOCK**. Know what personal information you have in your files and on your computers.

a. Track personal information through your business by talking with your sales department, information technology staff, human resources office, accounting personnel, and outside service providers. Get a complete picture of:

i. Who sends sensitive personal information to your business?

ii. How your business receives personal information.

iii. What kind of information you collect at each entry point.

iv. Where you keep the information you collect at each entry point.

v. Who has—or could have—access to the information.

b. Different types of information present varying risks. Pay particular attention to how you keep personally identifying information: Social Security numbers, credit card or financial information, and other sensitive data. That is what thieves use most often to commit fraud or identity theft.

2) **SCALE DOWN.** Keep only what you need for your business.

a. If you do not have a legitimate business need for sensitive personally identifying information, do not keep it. In fact, do not even collect it. If you have a legitimate business need for the information, keep it only as long as it is necessary.

3) **LOCK IT.** Protect the information that you keep.

a. What is the best way to protect the sensitive personally identifying information you need to keep? It depends on the kind of information and how it is stored. The most effective data security plans deal with four key elements: physical security, electronic security, employee training, and the security practices of contractors and service providers.

4) **PITCH IT**. Properly dispose of what you no longer need.

a. What looks like a sack of trash to you can be a gold mine for an identity thief. Leaving credit card receipts or papers or CDs with personally identifying information in a dumpster facilitates fraud and exposes consumers to the risk of identity theft. By properly disposing of sensitive information, you ensure that it cannot be read or reconstructed.

5) **PLAN AHEAD**. Create a plan to respond to security incidents.

a. Taking steps to protect data in your possession can go a long way toward preventing a security breach. Nevertheless, breaches can happen. Always have a plan in place.

For the complete "Protecting Personal Information – A Guide for Business" FTC publication, please pick up a copy at the OAG (on Capital Hill) or request one by email from consumer_counsel@cnmioag.org. This publication and many other helpful FTC publications focused on educating businesses are available on the FTC's website under the "Business Center" section accessible at https://www.ftc.gov/tips-advice/business-center/privacy-and-security.

Each week, the OAG's Consumer Protection Education Program shares FTC publications that provide consumers and businesses with the "know-how" to identify and protect themselves from unfair trade practices and marketplace schemes.

If you would like to file a consumer complaint, please pick up a form at the OAG (ion Capital Hill) or request one by email from consumer_counsel@cnmioag.org. After completing the consumer complaint, please submit it by email or in-person.

We cannot act as your private attorney. If you need legal assistance, we will recommend that you contact a private attorney or legal aid organization. We cannot give legal advice or act as your private attorney.

Michael J. Cyganek is consumer counsel of the Office of the Attorney General.

LITERARY NOOK

Ballet is poetry in motion

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

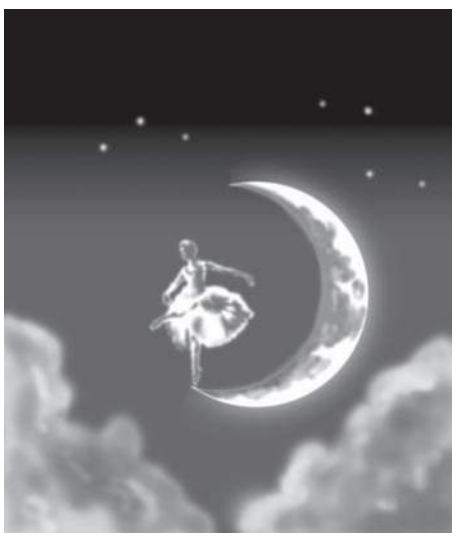
April is National Poetry Month. I can't think of a better way to kick it off on Saipan than to attend the ballet concert to be staged by Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe this April 1 and 2. There will be three Russian dancers from St. Petersburg, a performer from Japan, and 15 students from Glushko's Academy.

Ballet is true poetry in motion. Trained dancers' bodies blossom with grace and beauty, blending their moves with some of the world's great classical music and stories. Here are two poems inspired by my volunteering as emcee, performing bit parts, and observing Anna Glushko's Academy of Stars and student performances over the past 15 years.

THE CAMEL DANCES – for Anna Glushko

(written on Saipan in the spring of 2014)

one hump or two the camel dances swallowing her spit
sashay sashay on dunes in the desert she bobs and prances
portraying pachyderms in a dromedary ballet
she forms five positions on four legs and more
in a tutu tata one and two plié releve under the sun
pirouetting till all her pads were sore she took a bow
some folks complained," you are not and never will be
a ballet dancer " she said, that ignorant remark I'll just ignore
how wrong they are she explained and continued plodding
measure for measure for ballet gives me satisfaction and pleasure
and now as the sands of time shift through deep desert dunes
the camel dances with Heliogabalus to algebraic Arabic tunes
sonnet moral "satisfaction will come to those who please themselves"
put those negative remarks and insults on your minds back shelves



What follows is a three-part ode written with a one-line haiku on the Nutcracker Suite *by Tchaikovsky and ballet to accompany it. The production of the* Nutcracker *described here was performed by Glushko's Academy with four Russian ballet dancers from Perm Russia on Saipan in December 2004. I played the uncle who gives his niece the nutcracker. This poem, with a few revisions, was in the* Saipan Tribune *on Dec. 24, 2004. One meaning for nutation is oscillatory movement of the axis of a rotating body and Casse Noisette mentioned is the original name for the* Nutcracker Suite.

NUTCRACKER NUTATION

A three-part ode to a fairy tale ballet classic

Part One – PRACTICE

one two three ballerinas being born elementary steps
rushing home picking up the kids ballet today
practice try it again hearing French dance terms
new steps learned as muscles begin to build friends smile
students spin movement in the studio spritely and supple
tiny tots twirl play and pirouette proud parents

Part Two – PRODUCTION

backstage tension mounts where is the nutcracker
in the audience noise increases ballerinas ready
opening night grace and beauty convene in classic ballet
flowers dance mice merrily march in music delights
on stage and off movement with meaning memories are made
curtain call as flowers dance again Applause Bravo Cheers

Part Three – PERFORMERS

Tatiana Bolshuhina, prima ballerina floats arms and legs flutter
Ludmila Telius on her husband's shoulders aerial flight
Daniel Kurinov leaping lightly leads a family connection
Nikolai Kalabin continues Casse Noisette culture connection
children and teens dance wait patiently behind the scenes
a wonder for all in the hall ballet brings out the very best in all

FORGET

From Page 10

terrain in the Middle East, Central Asia and beyond. They need to know how to fight in these environments—so that, quite simply, they don't get killed. We sent troops into Iraq under-equipped. "You go to war with the army you have, not the army you might want," Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld remarked in 2004. It doesn't have to be that way.

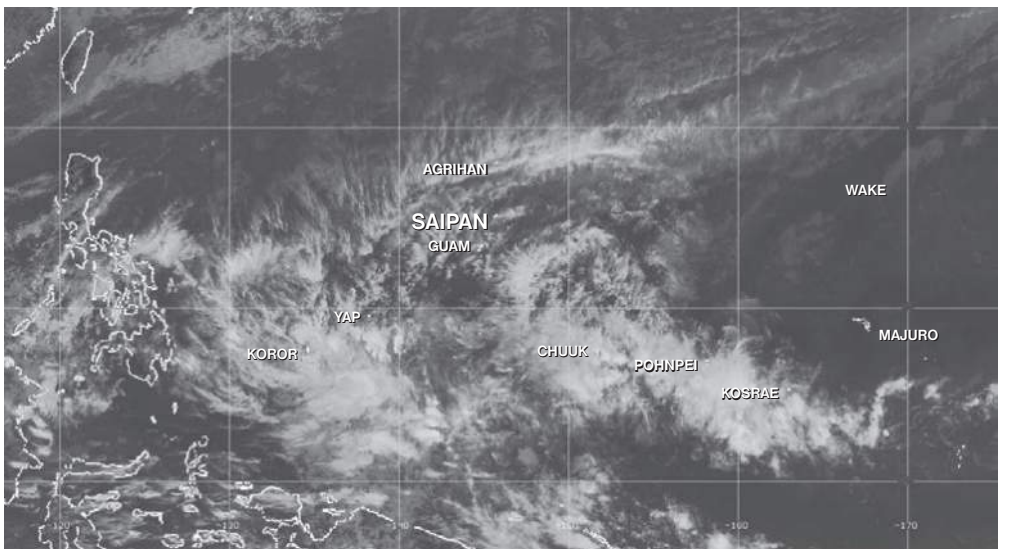
Judith Matloff teaches conflict reporting at Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism. Her latest book is No Friends but the Mountains—Dispatches from the World's Violent Highlands. *She wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:42 AM, TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Once again, a relatively quiet and dry period is in store for the Marianas. A shear line will slowly move southward and increase clouds. A brief shower can not be ruled out, but guidance has been consistent with substantial dry air aloft. Wind will gust up to 25 mph before decreasing into the 15 to 20 mph range tonight into Thursday. A small craft advisory has been issued for wind which will gust around 25 kts today through Thursday and possibly into Thursday night before decreasing. Additionally, seas which are already over 6 feet will continue to increase and will reach up to 9 feet by tonight into Thursday and could locally hit 10 feet. By Friday, both wind and seas will be decreasing and this trend will continue into the weekend.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly cloudy	86 | 78 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	85 | 78 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	86 | 71 °F
Chuuk	Rain	85 | 81 °F
Pohnpei	Overcast	86 | 79 °F
Kosrae	Overcast	84 | 78 °F
Majuro	Mostly cloudy	83 | 79 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Overcast	74 | 59 °F
Beijing	Partly cloudy	61 | 41 °F
Hong Kong	Cloudy	77 | 70 °F
Honolulu	Sunny	84 | 71 °F
London	Mostly cloudy	68 | 51 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	83 | 57 °F
Manila	Sunny	94 | 76 °F
Melbourne	Partly cloudy	62 | 50 °F
Miami	Sunny	81 | 71 °F
New York	Sunny	53 | 40 °F
Osaka	Sunny	64 | 46 °F
Paris	Mostly sunny	71 | 50 °F
Pusan	Partly cloudy	66 | 43 °F
Rome	Sunny	72 | 47 °F
Salem	Partly cloudy	62 | 52 °F
San Francisco	Sunny	66 | 55 °F
Seoul	Cloudy	60 | 39 °F
Tokyo	Sunny	61 | 46 °F
Washington, DC	Mostly sunny	56 | 43 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:14 AM	LOW TIDE	0.36
9:00 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.04
3:38 PM	LOW TIDE	0.0
9:50 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.02

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:14 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:12 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:11 AM	6:29 PM
Monday	6:11 AM	6:29 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	7:50 AM	8:38 PM	-
Friday	8:41 AM	9:39 PM	-
Saturday	9:34 AM	10:40 PM	-
Sunday	10:30 AM	11:41 PM	-
Monday	11:27 AM	-	-

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 25, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5

SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)

7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:50am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 3, 4, 6
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4

JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN

7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Hyatt golf classic receives donation from MVA

Hyatt Regency Saipan 21ST Annual Charity Golf Classic welcomes a generous donation from the Marianas Visitors Authority as a platinum sponsor.

All proceeds will go to the event's six beneficiaries: Make-A-Wish® Foundation, Kagman High School Million Dollar Club, Marianas Behavioral Health International, Karidat, Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation, and the Northern Marianas Humanities Council.

The charity-driven Hyatt Regency Saipan 21st Annual Charity Golf Classic remains one of the island's most favored tournaments and is grateful for the support from partnering organization MVA.

MVA managing director Chris Concepcion said, "As tourism industry partners, the Marianas Visitors Authority and Hyatt Regency Saipan have worked together for many years to serve our community. As MVA celebrates its 41st anniversary this year, we are pleased to be a contributing sponsor once again of the golf classic, and with six beneficiaries, we applaud Hyatt Regency Saipan in their mission to support our local nonprofit organizations. We wish all the players and organizers the best of luck."

In 1979 MVA opened its doors on the island of Saipan, CNMI. The organization promotes the Northern Mariana Islands as a destination of choice.

"MVA has been a partner of Hyatt Regency Saipan for a very long time. Together we support the growth of our tourism industry and island economy. We are honored by the generosity MVA has extended to us. This year we decided to have six beneficiaries because we want to further extend our reach within the community. With their support and the contributions of other partnering organization, our tournament will make an even bigger impact in our island community," said Hyatt Regency general manager Nick K. Nishikawa.

Less than 20 days is left to support the six nonprofit organizations with community-driven purposes. Sponsorship tiers for the 21st Annual Charity Golf Classic is as follows:

- Platinum: $2,000+ in cash or in-kind donations
- Gold: $1,500+ in cash or in-kind donations
- Silver: $750+ in cash or in-kind donations
- Bronze: Less than $750 in cash or in-kind donations

Hyatt Regency Saipan will hold its 21st Annual Charity Golf Classic event at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort west course on Saturday, April 22, 2017. Early bird registration is open until Monday, April 17, 2016, at 4pm for a rate of $100 per golfer. For more information contact 234-1234 Ext. 26. ***(PR)***

From left, back row, Marianas Visitors Authority accounting clerk II Shaun Mangloña; Marianas Visitors Authority procurement officer Dave Muña; and Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Bruce Bateman. From left, front row, Marianas Visitors Authority deputy managing director Judy C. Torres; Hyatt Regency Saipan general mManager Nick K. Nishikawa; Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion; Hyatt Regency Saipan F&B director Tyrell Pauling; and Hyatt Regency Saipan director of Rooms Rosalyn Quintanilla.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Partial water outage on Tinian

There will be a scheduled partial water outage on Tinian this Saturday, April 1, 2017, from 6am to 7pm, and this Sunday, April 2, 2017, from 8am to 7pm to install the necessary upgrades on the PRV system for the waterlines. Areas affected by these outages include San Jose, Carolinas Heights, and portions of Marpo Valley. For more information, call 433-9261/9264/9265. ***(CUC)***

GTC Elementary sets Kinder registration

Kindergarten registration at Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School for school year 2017 – 2018 is scheduled to begin on April 3, 2017, from 8:30am to 11:30am and from 1pm to 3:30pm. Registration will take place in the school's main office (in the cafeteria). There are only 40 slots available, and registration will be on a first come, first serve basis. Please note that children entering Kindergarten must be 5 years of age on or before Sept. 30, 2017.

All required documents must be submitted and received by a certified staff in order for your child to be on the roster. For more information, feel free to call 664-3400. ***(PR)***

Participants sought in research

Those who participated in the Pacific STAR Center for Young Writers project in 2006 are being invited to take part in a research project conducted by a CNMI resident Jennifer Furey Maratita.

In 2006, young writers were asked to contribute to a book, titled *We Drank Our Tears: Memories of the Battles for Saipan and Tinian as Told by Our Elders* (Tuten-Puckett, 2004).

Maratita's research questions will focus on the understanding of the impact this project had and its relevance in your life nowadays. The impacts of shared narratives across generations in the CNMI are of special concern. For more information, email Maratita at jennifer.maratita@waldenu.edu or call/text (670) 483-3879. ***(PR)***

Navy training at FDM, Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- March 30 from 10am to 7:30pm
- March 31 from 10am to 3:30pm

The U.S. Navy will also conduct training at Warning Area 517 on March 30, from midnight to 10pm

The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated. ***(PR)***

Call for historical papers

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council, University of Guam, Northern Marianas College, and Guampedia are calling for papers for the 3rd Marianas History Conference. The conference will be held on Saipan on Sept. 1-3, 2017, at a venue to be announced later.

The deadline for abstracts is April 28, 2017. Conference presenters will be allotted 20 minutes to present. For more information about the conference, contact council staff at 235-4785 or visit the council's website at: www.northernmarianashumanities.org. ***(PR)***

'Walk for the Red' tomorrow

The annual American Red Cross "Walk for the Red" will be held tomorrow, April 1, 2017.

This Red Cross event has bouncy houses for children, face painting, and other activities. There are also many prizes to be won for the following categories:

- Top 4 students with the highest pledges will receive a free iPad Mini donated by Docomo Pacific.
- For pledges of $75 or more, you will receive two waterpark passes to Pacific Islands Club.
- Individual non-students (adults): first, second, and third prizes (based on the largest amount of donations collected).
- Businesses and government agencies: Top business and government agency (the largest amount of walkers).
- Other non-school/nonprofit organizations: Top nonprofit organization (the largest amount of donations collected by the group)
- Aid station sponsors: Most spirited aid station
- And much more!

The monies raised by each walker go directly to support the Red Cross NMI Chapter and its many activities. The funds are used here in the Commonwealth to provide assistance to those in need.

Whether it's helping a single-family fire victim in the middle of the night, or teaching someone to swim, the Red Cross NMI Chapter is here to serve our community. The chapter provides disaster relief assistance, first aid, and CPR training, swimming and lifeguard classes, as well as community education on disaster hazards like typhoons, earthquakes and tsunamis.

The chapter also plays a vital role in providing emergency communications for family members trying to reach loved ones in the military.

The NMI Chapter relies solely on the support and financial generosity of the people in the Commonwealth.

Visit the Saipan Young Professionals at Tent No. 4 offering refreshments and water to all participants.

For more information, contact John Hirsch at 234-3459. ***(PR)***

ANTI-BULLYING MONTH

Kagman High School student council leaders are joined by Youth Advisory Panel leaders, Board of Education chair Marylou Ada, board member Herman Guerrero, Education Commissioner Cynthia Deleon Guerrero, Public School System leaders, counselors, and librarians after the proclamations signing for Anti-Bullying Month at Kagman High School on March 13, 2017.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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$49.95

KENMORE 3.4 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER
$249.95

$499.95
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$3.95
YIWU HAND TOWELS 26X26 CM 10 COUNT PACKAGE

$9.95
YIWU SLEEPING BAG

$49.95
DAHDOUL PRESTIGE 7PC COMFORTER SET QUEEN SIZE

$3299.95
GENERATOR 8KW AIR COOLED

$399.95
SHINEVER 2,000 WATT DIESEL GENERATOR

HAMILTON BEACH 10 CUP FOOD PROCESSOR
$29.95

$12.95
IRON MAN SPIN MOP WITH ATTACHMENTS

$24.95
HAMILTON BEACH EZ REACH 4 SLICE TOASTER OVEN

HAMILTON BEACH MODERN CHROME 2 SLICE TOASTER
$17.95

LANGFANG CINDERELLA SINGLE BED WITH MATTRESS
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MEMORY FOAM PILLOW

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Business

Trump digs in on coal

President Donald Trump, accompanied by Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt, third from left, and Vice President Mike Pence, right, signs an Energy Independence Executive Order, Tuesday, March 28, 2017, at EPA headquarters in Washington. AP

WASHINGTON (AP)—Declaring an end to what he's called "the war on coal," President Donald Trump signed an executive order Tuesday that eliminates numerous restrictions on fossil fuel production, breaking with leaders across the globe who have embraced cleaner energy sources.

The order makes good on Trump's campaign pledge to unravel former President Barack Obama's efforts to curb global warming, eliminating nearly a dozen measures in an effort to boost domestic energy production, especially oil, natural gas and coal.

Environmental activists, including former Vice President Al Gore, denounced the plan. But Trump said the effort would spark "a new energy revolution" and lead to "unbelievable" American prosperity.

"That is what this is all about: bringing back our jobs, bringing back our dreams and making America wealthy again," Trump said during a signing ceremony at the Environmental Protection Agency headquarters, where he was flanked on stage by more than a dozen coal miners.

Throughout the election, Trump accused the former president of waging "a war" against coal as he campaigned in economically depressed swaths of states like West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

The miners "told me about the efforts to shut down their mines, their communities and their very way of life. I made them this promise: We will put our miners back to work," the president said. "My administration is putting an end to the war on coal."

But Trump's promise runs counter to market forces, including U.S. utilities converting coal-fired power plants to cheaper, cleaner-burning natural gas. And Democrats, environmental groups and scientists said the executive order ignores the realities of climate change.

"There is much our nation can do to address the risks that climate change poses to human health and safety, but disregarding scientific evidence puts our communities in danger," said Rush Holt, chief executive officer of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the nation's largest general scientific society.

California Gov. Jerry Brown was more blunt.

"Gutting the Clean Power Plan is a colossal mistake and defies science itself. Erasing climate change may take place in Donald Trump's mind, but nowhere else," Brown said.

While Republicans have blamed Obama-era environmental regulations for the loss of coal jobs, federal data shows that U.S. mines have been shedding jobs for decades under presidents from both parties as a result of increasing automation and competition from natural gas.

Another factor is the plummeting cost of solar panels and wind turbines, which now can produce emissions-free electricity cheaper than burning coal.

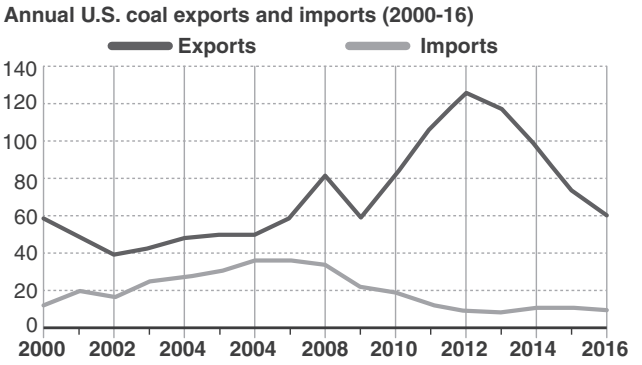
According to an Energy Department analysis released in January, coal mining now accounts for fewer than 75,000 U.S. jobs. By contrast, renewable energy—including wind, solar and biofuels—now accounts for more than 650,000 U.S. jobs.

Trump's order initiates a review of the Clean Power Plan, which restricts greenhouse gas emissions at coal-fired power plants. The regulation—Obama's signature effort to curb carbon emissions—has been the subject of long-running legal challenges by Republican-led states and those who profit from burning oil, coal and gas.

The order also lifts a 14-month-old moratorium on new coal leases on federal lands. The Obama administration had imposed a three-year moratorium on new federal coal leases in January 2016, arguing that the $1 billion-a-year program must be modernized to ensure a fair financial return to taxpayers and address climate change.

U.S. coal export and imports

Nearly 80% of the coal exported by the United States in 2016 went to 10 countries. Declining exports to 9 of those 10 countries accounted for two-thirds of the total drop in U.S. exports.



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration
Graphic: Tribune News Service

Nation

Manafort's Russian client is willing to speak to Congress

WASHINGTON (AP)—A Russian billionaire close to President Vladimir Putin said Tuesday he is willing to take part in U.S. congressional hearings to discuss his past business relationship with President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort.

Last week, The Associated Press reported that Manafort had written aluminum magnate Oleg Deripaska in 2005, proposing to do work for Deripaska that would "benefit the Putin Government." The story was based on interviews with people familiar with Deripaska's business dealings with Manafort and documents obtained by the AP, including strategy memoranda, contracts and records showing international wire transfers for millions of dollars.

In a quarter-page advertisement in Tuesday's editions of The Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal, Deripaska said he was "ready to take part in any hearings conducted in the US Congress on this subject in order to defend my reputation and name."

Manafort signed a $10 million contract in 2006 that laid out a four-country communications and political strategy intended to support Deripaska's company and undermine anti-Russian political movements. Payments continued until at least 2009, seven years before Manafort joined and led Trump's 2016 campaign, according to people familiar with the relationship. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the business arrangement openly.

In his newspaper ads responding to the AP's story, Deripaska said he never signed "a $10 million contract 'to greatly benefit the Putin Government' with Paul Manafort."

"I have never made any commitments or contracts with the obligation or purpose to covertly promote or advance 'Putin's Government' interests anywhere in the world," Deripaska wrote.

The AP's story said that Manafort wrote a strategy memo proposing that the work he would do for Deripaska would "benefit the Putin Government," not that the contract contained that language.

"This AP Exclusive report falls into the negative context of current US-Russian relations and causes fresh unfair and unjustified concerns and alarm in the US Congress about Russian involvement in US domestic affairs," Deripaska's ad says.

ACROSS THE NATION

Head of Trump-Russia probe under fire, won't step down

WASHINGTON (AP)—The chairman of the House intelligence committee is refusing to step away from its investigation of Russian meddling in the 2016 election, as fresh political allegations bring new cries of protest from Democrats. Asked Tuesday if he should recuse himself, committee chairman Devin Nunes responded, "Why would I?" Later in the day, the White House vehemently denied a report that it had sought to hobble the testimony of a former acting attorney general before Nunes canceled the hearing where she was to speak. President Donald Trump's spokesman, Sean Spicer, lashed out at reporters, claiming they're seeing conspiracies where none exist. "If the president puts Russian salad dressing on his salad tonight, somehow that's a Russian connection," he suggested. The embattled House committee is conducting one of three probes into the election campaign, its aftermath and potential contacts between Trump officials and Russians.

3 storm chasers killed in crash during West Texas storms

SPUR, Texas (AP)—Three storm chasers were killed when their vehicles collided at a rural crossroads during severe West Texas storms on Tuesday. The storms spawned multiple funnel clouds and an occasional tornado in open areas of West Texas on Tuesday afternoon. No damage was reported. The crash happened at a remote intersection near the town of Spur, about 55 miles southeast of Lubbock. Tornadoes had been reported nearby at the time of the crash and heavy rain had been reported in the area, according to the National Weather Service. The Texas Department of Public Safety identified the three storm chasers killed as Kelley Gene Williamson, 57, and Randall Delane Yarnall, 55, both of Cassville, Missouri, and Corbin Lee Jaeger, 25, of Peoria, Arizona.

Felony charges for 2 who secretly filmed Planned Parenthood

LOS ANGELES (AP)—California prosecutors on Tuesday charged two anti-abortion activists who made undercover videos of themselves trying to buy fetal tissue from Planned Parenthood with 15 felonies, saying they invaded the privacy of medical providers by filming without consent. The charges against David Daleiden and Sandra Merritt of the Center for Medical Progress come eight months after similar charges were dropped in Texas. State Attorney General Xavier Becerra, a longtime Congressional Democrat who took over the investigation in January, said in a statement that the state "will not tolerate the criminal recording of conversations." Prosecutors say Daleiden, of Davis, California, and Merritt, of San Jose, filmed 14 people without permission between October 2013 and July 2015 in Los Angeles, San Francisco and El Dorado counties. One felony count was filed for each person. The 15th was for criminal conspiracy to invade privacy.

Man kills 3 home burglars; woman who aided robbers arrested

A woman believed to have driven three burglars to an Oklahoma home where they were shot to death during a suspected home invasion has been arrested on murder and robbery warrants but the homeowner's son who shot them has not been arrested while police investigate whether he acted in self-defense under the state's "Stand Your Ground" law. Wagoner County Deputy Nick Mahoney said Tuesday that Elizabeth Marie Rodriguez, 21, of Oologah was arrested on three first-degree murder and three first-degree burglary warrants and was jailed without bond after going to police and saying she had information about the shooting at a home just east of the Tulsa suburb of Broken Arrow. ***(AP)***

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

S. Korea's Park to attend court session on possible arrest

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Ousted South Korean President Park Geunhye has decided to attend a questioning session by a Seoul court before it determines whether she should be arrested over corruption allegations, prosecutors said Tuesday. Prosecutors said Park's lawyers have informed them that she will appear at the Seoul Central District Court on Thursday when a judge reviews whether to grant the prosecutors' request for an arrest warrant against her. If the court issues the warrant, Park will become the third former president to be arrested over criminal accusations after leaving office since South Korea turned from a dictatorship to a democracy in the late 1980s.

Cambodia bans export of breast milk by US company

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—Cambodia has permanently banned the export of human breast milk by a company headed by a former Mormon missionary that pioneered the business two years ago. A letter issued Tuesday by the Cabinet to the Health Ministry said Prime Minister Hun Sen has ordered a halt to U.S.-based Ambrosia Labs Ltd. buying and exporting the milk. The product is marketed as food for babies and as a supplement for adults with special needs, such as bodybuilders, and sells for as much as $4 an ounce. The letter gave no legal reason for the ban, but indicated that national pride was at stake.

Australian probe yet to explain plane crash that killed 5

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—A cockpit voice recorder failed to capture audio of the doomed flight of a light plane that crashed into the roof of an Australian shopping mall last month killing a pilot and four Americana tourists, accident investigators said Wednesday. Australian pilot Max Quartermain, 63, radioed "Mayday" seven times, but did not explain the emergency before the twin-engine Beechcraft King Air B200 plunged into the Direct Factory Outlet mall in the Melbourne suburb of Essendon on Feb. 21 moments after takeoff from a nearby runway, the Australian Transport Safety Bureau said in a preliminary report.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Fifteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Friday, March 31, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. at the Office of the Commissioner of Education Conference Room, Building 1211, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA[1]

I. Preliminary
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
   a. February 23, 2017 Special Board Meeting

II. Public Comments [2]

III. Reports
1. Chair
2. Board Committees
   a. CIP
   b. FPA
   c. SARC
   d. SICPP
3. Commissioner of Education
   a. Financial Status Reports
      i. Federal
      ii. Local
   b. Head Start Program
   c. Others

IV. Unfinished Business
1. Proposed FTE
   a. EEO Investigator-LCO
2. Repeal of PSS Child Care Program Rules and Regulations
3. School Calendar for SY 2017-2018
   a. K-12
   b. Early Intervention Program
4. Revised Organizational Chart

V. New Business
1. Updates
   a. FY'16 Audit Status Report
   d. Annual Reports PSS 2015-2016
2. NMTI MOU with PSS
3. Ratifications:
   a. Proclamation of March as Anti-Bullying Month
   b. Proclamation of April as Library Month
   c. BOE-PSS Comments to HB 20-10 and 20-15
   d. BOE-PSS Comments to SB 20-03
   e. BOE-PSS Comments to SB 20-04 and 20-05
   f. BOE-PSS Comments to SB 20-09
4. Proposed Regulation Amendments:
   a. Regulation 60-40-120 Procurement & Supply – Small Purchases
   b. Regulation 60-40-251 Procurement & Supply – Change Order
5. Special Education Program - Annual State Grant Application - Part B (2017)
6. Early Intervention Program - Annual State Application - Part C (2017)
7. Head Start/Early Head Start Program
   a. Revised Organizational Chart
   b. SY 2016-2017 Program Self-Assessment Report
   c. SY 2016-2017 Community Assessment Report
   d. SY 2017-2018 Selection Criteria
   e. SY 2017-2018 Proposed School Calendars
      i. Head Start Full Day
      ii. Head Start Part Day
      iii. Early Head Start
8. Goals and Objectives
9. Certification and Licensure Matters
   a. CLO Report No. 2017-003

VI. Executive Session [3]
1. Legal Updates
2. Personnel/Certification
3. Other matters

VII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

VIII. Adjournment

[1] In the event that the items on the agenda are not completed, the meeting will recess and reconvene on the following day or at the most expeditious date and time determined by the Board.
[2] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[3] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

†George Cruz Duenas

Born to Life: March 27, 1947 • Called to Eternal life: March 22, 2017

In his new life, he now joins his:

Wife:	**†Margarita Attao Duenas**
Father:	†Dionisio Duenas
Mother:	†Maria Tenorio Dela Cruz
Children:	†Shelma Lynn Attao Duenas
	†Precillia Attao
Father In law:	†Vicente Magofna Attao
Mother In law:	†Natividad Cabrera San Nicolas
Sisters:	†Magdalena Cruz
	†Agusta Cruz
	†Bernadita Cruz Taitano
Brothers and Sisters In law:	†Urbano C. Babauta
	†Vicente M. Aldan
	†Teresita SN Attao
	†Carmen/Cesario Concepcion
	†Pedro/Ninfa Attao
	†Maria/Alejandro Bermudes
	†Jose SN Attao
Grandchildren:	†Manny Angel D. Aaron
	†Manny Junior D. Aaron

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Children and their families:

- **Cynthia Attao** (Kabir)
- **Vincent Raymond** & Menchie (Julie A. Castro/Ben [Jonathan John, Keona Colette, Imani, Kekoa], Ann Maureen, Vincent Jr. [Jaeton Vincent], Naethon)
- **Ann Margaret D. Aaron** & Manny (Edward, Matthew David/Marienza [Matthew Jr., Derenz, Amai'Lyn, Aubrey, Lorenson], Malcolm Lee, Myron/Alma, Manny David)
- **John Patrick Attao** (Kimberly D./Steven [Jenniven, Jonavan, Natividad, Jeraibeth, Margarita/Zachary, Jared, Justin, John Patrick, Joseph, Giovonno, Leejohn], Eva Marie D./Josh [Jacqueline, David, Josh Jr.], Eugene/Leah [Danielle, Devin Matthewl, Shunn/Karen, Zena Maria)
- **†Shelma Lynn Attao Duenas** (Leyalani Lynn Attao Duenas/Leonard, Margaret Antonette D. Celis, Jesse Jr. D. Celis

Brothers, Sisters and In law:

- Ines C. Duenas
- Dolores D. Babauta
- Alexandro & Carmen Castro
- Fernando C. Ada
- Barbara Cruz
- Jesus Taitano

He will also be missed by his numerous niece, nephews, relatives and friends.

Daily Mass of Intentions is being offered for the repose of his soul at Mount Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 am. Holy Rosary is being prayed each evening at 7:30 at the residence of Ines Duenas in Susupe.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, April 01, 2017.
His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30 am to Mount Carmel Cathedral. Responso Service and Holy Rosary will take place upon arrival of remains. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 am followed by Interment service at Mount Carmel Cemetery where he will be at a peaceful rest with his
Wife †Margarita, Daughter †Shelma Lynn, and Mother †Maria.

Please join us in prayers,
Thank you - Si Yu'us Ma'ase

The Children and Families of the late
†George Cruz Duenas and †Margarita Attao Duenas

World

Unfriendly fire: US strikes that have killed civilians

The explosion in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul last week, which residents say killed more than 100 civilians, may have been caused by a U.S. airstrike, making it potentially one of the deadliest attacks on civilians ever carried out by American forces.

The U.S. military says it is investigating the blast, which may have been caused by an Islamic State truck bomb that was either hit by the airstrike or detonated by the militants near a building packed with dozens of civilians. The civilians may also have been held as human shields.

Amnesty International said Tuesday that a recent spike in civilian casualties indicates the U.S. military is not taking adequate precautions, and that another strike in Mosul on Saturday may have killed up to 150 civilians. The U.S.-led coalition, which is helping Iraqi forces drive IS militants from the country's second-largest city, says it is investigating multiple strikes that allegedly resulted in civilian deaths.

Here is a look at past incidents in which U.S. fire has killed large numbers of civilians.

Nov. 3, 2016—During a firefight between NATO-backed Afghan forces and the Taliban in the northern Kunduz province, troops responded to fire from insurgents who had taken up positions in civilian homes, killing 33 civilians and wounding 27, according to the U.S. military, which expressed regret.

Oct. 3, 2015—A U.S. Air Force special operations AC-130 gunship attacked a Kunduz hospital run by the medical charity Doctors Without Borders, killing 42 people. Sixteen U.S. military personnel, including a two-star general, were disciplined for what American officials described as mistakes that led to the strike. Doctors Without Borders has called the attack a war crime and demanded an independent investigation.

In this Friday, March 24, 2017, file photo, residents carry the bodies of several people killed during fighting between Iraq security forces and Islamic State militants on the western side of Mosul, Iraq. AP

Worst humanitarian crisis hits

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—The world's largest humanitarian crisis in 70 years has been declared in three African countries on the brink of famine, just as President Donald Trump's proposed foreign aid cuts threaten to pull the United States from its historic role as the world's top emergency donor.

If the deep cuts are approved by Congress and the U.S. does not contribute to Africa's current crisis, experts warn that the continent's growing drought and famine could have far-ranging effects, including a new wave of migrants heading to Europe and possibly more support for Islamic extremist groups.

The conflict-fueled hunger crises in Nigeria, Somalia and South Sudan have culminated in a trio of potential famines hitting almost simultaneously. Nearly 16 million people in the three countries are at risk of dying within months.

Famine already has been declared in two counties of South Sudan and 1 million people there are on the brink of dying from a lack of food, U.N. officials have said. Somalia has declared a state of emergency over drought and 2.9 million of its people face a food crisis that could become a famine, according to the U.N. And in northeastern Nigeria, severe malnutrition is widespread in areas affected by violence from Boko Haram extremists.

"We are facing the largest humanitarian crisis since the creation of the United Nations," Stephen O'Brien, the U.N. humanitarian chief, told the U.N. Security Council after a visit this month to Somalia and South Sudan.

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

†John Peter Duenas Del Rosario

"Chief / JD"

Born to Life: April 08, 1979
Born into Eternal Life: Saturday, March 25, 2017

In his new life, he now joins his:
Paternal Grandparents: †Juan Del Rosario, †Francisco A. Manahane and †Magdalena S. Manahane
Maternal Grandparents: †Pedro P. Duenas (PPD) and †Lucia A. Duenas
Father: †Herbert Sablan Del Rosario

His memory will forever live in the hearts of his **Mother, Rose Duenas Del Rosario (PPD), Wife, Darrah Lacapa Benavente, Daughter, Aidin Benavente Tagabuel.**

Brothers and Sisters:
- Dorsha Jane D./Eduardo Jr. Guinto (Brandon, Donovan, Colton, Edward Jr, and Aryana)
- Tricia Rose D. Del Rosario/Joseph Reyes Jr. (Elerie Rose, Elicia Jo, and Joseph Herbert)
- Tracy Lynn D. Del Rosario
- Herman Herbert D. Del Rosario Jr.
- Trianna Jamae D. Del Rosario
- (Reared Brother) Wilber (PJ) Ngotel/Desiree Valdez (Leilani)

Parents In-Law: Roman and Andrea Benavente

Brothers and Sisters In-Law:
- Linoa Benavente
- Jeremiah/Eun Benavente and Family
- David/Chinnelle Benavente and Family
- Ann Rita/Jovano Taitano and Family

He will also be greatly missed by his numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends.

Daily Eucharistic Celebration are being celebrated for the repose of his soul at San Antonio Church each evening at 6:00 pm followed by Holy Rosary.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, April 01, 2017. His remains will lay in state at Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel beginning at 8:30 am.

At 11:30 am, his remains will be escorted to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral for Responso Service and Holy Rosary.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 2:00 pm followed by Interment services at Mt. Carmel Cemetery where he will be laid at a peaceful rest.

It's hard to imagine a world without John Peter Duenas Del Rosario (known to many as "Chief" or "JD").

Chief was a gentle giant of a man who cared deeply for his parents and siblings. He was a devoted husband and father, loving Darrah and Aiden (Junie Bug) with a love both fierce and protective. He was a law enforcement professional who understood the importance of justice, of right and wrong.

We are better for having known him, and must now learn to fill the void left in his absence. Thanks be to God for the gifts we have received in Chief. Thanks be to God for a life lived with courage and honesty, strength and love.

Adios, Chief. Puedi I taihinekkok na mina'lak I Saina un inina para siempre.

Please join us in prayers,
Thank you – Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Rose Duenas Del Rosario, Darrah Lacapa Benavente and Family

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL A[illegible]
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 9[illegible]0
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) [illegible]-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Websi[illegible]w.cpa.gov.mp

PUBLIC AUCTIO[illegible]
SURPLUS CHAINLINK [illegible]ING
PROJECT NO. CPA-PA-00[illegible]17

AUCTION DATE: MARCH 31, 20[illegible] TIM[illegible] 2:00 P.M.

LOCATION: COMMONWEA[illegible]TH PORTS AUTHOR[illegible]TY SE[illegible]ORT BUILD[illegible]G PREMISE

CHAINLINK FENCING WI[illegible]E SOLD "AS IS" AND "WHERE IS" AND WITHOUT WARRANTY. MINIMUM BID WILL BE ANNOUNCE AT THE OPENING. BIDDERS A[illegible] REQUE[illegible]TED TO SEE THE MATERIALS BY CONTACTING JERR[illegible]ING AT CPA SEAPORT OFFICE AT TELEPHONE NUMBER 664-3560 DURI[illegible]WORKING HOURS.

CHAIN LINK FENCE SH[illegible] ONLY BE RELEASE TO BIDDERS UPON FULL PAYMENT.

AUCTION IS OPEN TO ALL BIDDERS

FOR THE COMM[illegible]NWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: _____

CANCELLED

Environment

China demand for elephant ivory drops

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—A leading elephant conservation group says the price of ivory in China has dropped as the country moves toward a ban on the legal trade of ivory this year.

Experts say Chinese demand for tusks has been driving elephants toward extinction.

A report launched Wednesday surveyed the price of ivory in markets across China over the last three years and found prices had dropped from $2,100 per kilogram in early 2014 to $730 in February.

Save the Elephants says factors behind the drop in the price of ivory include an economic slowdown in China resulting in fewer people being able to afford luxury goods, and a crackdown on corruption dissuading business people from buying expensive ivory items as "favors" for government officials.

Expeditions to send huge trash bags to clean Mt. Everest

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Mountaineering expedition organizers in Nepal are sending huge trash bags with climbers on Mount Everest during the spring climbing season to collect trash that then can be winched by helicopters back to the base camp.

Dambar Parajuli of the Expedition Operators Association of Nepal said Wednesday that bags have already been sent to the base camp to be carried by climbers, guides and porters to higher elevations.

Each bag can hold up to 80 kilograms (176 pounds) of trash and can be hooked to helicopters at Camp 2 to be flown back to the base camp. The helicopters after dropping off supplies and equipment at the camp located at 6,400 meters (21,000 feet) generally fly back empty.

Hundreds of climbers and their guides are expected to attempt to scale the 8,850-meter (29,035-foot) peak during the spring season. Climbers generally arrive in April and attempt to reach the summit in May when weather conditions are favorable. They leave behind a lot of garbage.

Climbers also say it is urgent to remove the trash left by previous expeditions at Camp 2, which was set up in 2014 and 2015 when tragedies forced an early end to the climbs. The 2014 season was canceled after 16 Nepalese guides were killed in an avalanche, and the following year an earthquake-triggered avalanche swept the base camp killing 19 people.

Veteran guide Russell Brice said the tents and supplies that were left behind have to be removed.

Doing it by helicopter means Sherpa guides do not have to risk carrying heavy loads of trash through the treacherous Khumbu Icefall to the base camp.

Brice, one of the leading expedition organizers, said that for trash left higher up the mountain he was offering Sherpa guides carrying equipment up the mountain for their clients to bring back bags filled with trash to Camp 2. They would be paid $2 per 1 kilogram (2.2 pounds), and would use bags that can hold 5 kilograms (11 pounds).

Groups vowing to fight Trump climate actions

CHICAGO (AP)—Environmental groups that have hired scores of new lawyers in recent months are prepared to go to court to fight a sweeping executive order from President Donald Trump that eliminates many restrictions on fossil fuel production and would roll back his predecessor's plans to curb global warming. But they said they'll take their first battle to the court of public opinion.

Advocates said they plan to work together to mobilize a public backlash against an executive order signed by Trump on Tuesday that includes initiating a review of former President Barack Obama's signature plan to restrict greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants and lifting a 14-month-old moratorium on new coal leases on federal lands. Trump, who has called global warming a "hoax" invented by the Chinese, said during his campaign that he would kill Obama's climate plans and bring back coal jobs.

Even so, "this is not what most people elected Trump to do; people support climate action," said David Goldston, director of government affairs at the Natural Resources Defense Council, who said Trump's actions are shortsighted and won't bring back the jobs he promised.

The White House did not immediately respond to an Associated Press email looking for comment.

While Republicans have blamed Obama-era environmental regulations for the loss of coal jobs, federal data shows that U.S. mines have been shedding jobs for decades under presidents from both parties because of automation and competition from natural gas and because of solar panels and wind turbines, which now can produce emissions-free electricity cheaper than burning coal.

But many people in coal country are counting on the jobs that Trump has promised, and industry advocates praised his orders.

"These executive actions are a welcome departure from the previous administration's strategy of making energy more expensive through costly, job-killing regulations that choked our economy," said U.S. Chamber of Commerce President Thomas J. Donohue.

The order will also chip away at other regulations, including scrapping language on the "social cost" of greenhouse gases. It will initiate a review of efforts to reduce the emission of methane in oil and natural gas production as well as a Bureau of Land Management hydraulic fracturing rule, to determine whether those reflect the president's policy priorities.

It also will rescind Obama-era executive orders and memoranda, including one that addressed climate change and national security and one that sought to prepare the country for the impacts of climate change. The administration is still in discussion about whether it intends to withdraw from the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Environmentalists say clean energy would create thousands of new jobs and fear that Trump's actions will put the U.S. at a competitive disadvantage to other countries that are embracing it.

But they believe efforts to revive fossil fuels ultimately will fail because many states and industries already have been embracing renewable energy and natural gas.

"Those decisions are being made at the state level and plant by plant," said Earthjustice President Trip Van Noppen, who said his group is "continuing to work aggressively to retire dirty coal plants.

"Coal is not coming back," Van Noppen added. "While the president is taking big splashy action, he is actually doomed to fail."

Life & Style

Ivanka, DeVos push STEM careers

AP

From right, Ivanka Trump, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, John R. "Jack" Dailey, director of the National Air and Space Museum and NASA Astronaut Kay Hire, applaud at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum in Washington, Tuesday, March 28, 2017, during an event to celebrate Women's History Month.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Ivanka Trump and Education Secretary Betsy DeVos on Tuesday exhorted young girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math, saying those fields will provide the jobs and innovation for the future.

Their tour of the National Air and Space Museum with a group of middle school students came as the Trump administration proposed further cuts to education and science, drawing harsh criticism from teachers' unions and others.

Ivanka Trump, a successful entrepreneur who considers herself as a women's rights activist, lamented that women make up 48 percent of America's work force but only 24 percent of STEM professionals.

"This statistic is showing that we are sadly moving in the wrong direction. Women are increasingly underrepresented in important fields of science, technology, engineering and math," Trump said. "But I dare you to beat these statistics and advance the role of women in STEM fields."

She said she and her 5-year-old daughter Arabella plan to take a coding class together this summer because "coding truly is the language of the future."

Astronaut Kay Hire and female researchers at NASA also spoke to the students and DeVos urged the children to follow in their footsteps by studying, working hard and mentoring younger peers.

"You can do your part to improve the lives of women in the future," DeVos said.

As she praised the role of women in the American space program, Ivanka Trump also said her father's administration has expanded NASA's space exploration to add Mars as a top objective. But as she spoke, the Trump administration sent Congress a series of "options" for budget cuts, including slashing $3 billion from Education Department, as well as cuts to NASA and the National Institutes of Health.

The American Federation of Teachers accused the administration of hypocrisy.

"Education Secretary Betsy DeVos and Ivanka Trump are feigning an interest in STEM careers with a photo op at the National Air and Space Museum while eliminating all funding for NASA's education programs. This takes chutzpah to a new level," American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten said in a statement. "The next generation of astronauts, scientists, engineers and mathematicians need support, not budget cuts eliminating the very programs being promoted."

But Gerard Robinson, a resident fellow at the conservative American Enterprise Institute, said that STEM was not limited to the Education Department and that other agencies, like the Defense Department, where Trump has proposed to increase spending, also have STEM programs.

Robinson added that President Donald Trump has signed two laws aimed at encouraging women to pursue STEM majors. The bills, which Trump signed into law in February, call on NASA to encourage young women to study STEM and empower the National Institutes of Health to support women in turning their scientific work into business ventures.

"Both of these are signs to me that both Trump and Betsy DeVos are committed to advancing women in stem fields," Robinson said.

Sean Spicer tells reporter to 'stop shaking your head'

NEW YORK (AP)—White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer told a reporter to "stop shaking your head" during an exchange at his daily press briefing Tuesday.

Spicer appeared annoyed by April Ryan, Washington bureau chief for American Urban Radio Networks, when she asked what President Trump's administration would do to revamp its image following reports of its ties to Russia. Spicer objected to the premise, saying: "I appreciate your agenda here. At some point, report the facts."

He said there has been no proven collusion between Trump associates and Russian officials over interference in last year's election, quipping that "if the president put Russian salad dressing on his salad tonight, somehow that's a Russian connection."

Spicer said Ryan appeared "hell-bent" on projecting her own image of the White House when she asked what Trump might be doing to repair a relationship with former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who did not support his campaign and was meeting with the president later this week.

"Please stop shaking your head again," Spicer said to Ryan. He said the president was fulfilling a promise to build bridges with both supporters and opponents.

Later, in an interview on MSNBC, Ryan said that "Sean is being the White House press secretary, talking about and trying to make this administration look better than what it does right now, and unfortunately I was roadkill today."

Johnson says 'Baywatch' is summer's 'sexiest, funniest' pic

LAS VEGAS (AP)—CinemaCon just got a little less dressed.

The cast of "Baywatch" took the stage Tuesday afternoon alongside around two dozen scantily clad men and women sporting the classic red bathing suits to preview the film.

Star Dwayne Johnson told the audience of theater owners and exhibitors that their movie is going to be the craziest, sexiest, funniest R-rated comedy of the summer. He also introduced new footage in what they called a "fuschia band" trailer, riffing on the risque nature of the NSFW "red band" trailer.

Indeed, there was a fair amount of skin in the footage, which highlighted both its self-aware comedy and action/adventure on the beach.

"Baywatch" also stars Zac Efron, Alexandra Daddario and Priyanka Chopra. It hits theaters on May 26.

AP

Dwayne Johnson, a cast member in the upcoming film "Baywatch," addresses the audience during the Paramount Pictures presentation at CinemaCon 2017 at Caesars Palace on Tuesday, March 28, 2017, in Las Vegas.

O'Reilly apologizes for jest about Maxine Waters' hair

NEW YORK (AP)—Fox News personality Bill O'Reilly apologized Tuesday for saying he had a hard time concentrating on California Rep. Maxine Waters during a speech because he was distracted by her "James Brown wig."

O'Reilly said that his jest about her hair was dumb. "I apologize," he said in a statement.

He had made his statement during an appearance earlier on "Fox & Friends," after a clip was shown of the Democratic representative speaking in the House of Representatives. O'Reilly, as he watched, appeared to mouth the words "right on" and give a clenched-fist salute.

After the clip, he said, "I didn't hear a word she said. I was looking at the James Brown wig." Fox's Ainsley Earhardt defended Waters, saying O'Reilly shouldn't go after a woman's looks.

O'Reilly also said that Waters, who is black, should have "her own sitcom."

In his apology, O'Reilly said that "as I have said many times, I respect Congresswoman Maxine Waters for being sincere in her beliefs."

Graciousness is key to the art of accepting a compliment

DEAR ABBY: I'm a young man in my mid-20s, and I have a deeper voice than my stature would typically suggest. Close friends even get thrown off when I talk to them if they haven't seen me in a while. I'm fairly happy with it, and people often ask if I do radio or voice acting. I run into problems, though, when strangers comment on it.

If someone says, "Wow, has anyone ever told you that you have a great voice?" or something of that nature, my first impulse is to make a joke about it. If I'm not quick enough on my feet, however, I often catch myself saying something like, "Yeah, I get that a lot," or, "I know," both of which sound egotistical, and I feel embarrassed afterward. Is there a way to acknowledge the compliment that doesn't come off so pretentious?

NOT QUICK ON MY FEET

DEAR NOT QUICK: Yes, accept the compliment graciously by saying, "Thank you."

DEAR ABBY: My husband has been sick and unable to work for several years due to a debilitating illness. He has been home taking care of the kids while I have been working full time. We have lost everything because of the financial burden of his illness. I am very grateful to my parents for helping us financially during this tough time.

Unfortunately, I believe some of my family think my husband is faking his illness. This is hurtful since they have known him for a long time (we've been married 12 years). My sister recently asked him in a rather nasty way why he doesn't just go get a job, and I'm beginning to think that my parents share her sentiment.

He already feels guilty and worthless for not being able to provide for our family. It's coming to the point where I just want to get away from them and cut off contact. Should I address the issue or just let it go?

SICK IN THE SOUTH

DEAR SICK: By all means address the issue. What your sister did was both cruel and out of line. Ask your parents if those are their sentiments as well, because you are concerned they might be.

If they are having doubts about your husband's physical problems, offer to share medical information that proves his health problems are all too real. Because your parents have been helping out financially, it might help to clear the air.

DEAR ABBY: My son just got some devastating news. He found out that the son he has raised for 20 years isn't his. We will always love the young man regardless. The thing is, how do we help our son to overcome losing a child we all thought was his?

HEARTBROKEN IN TEXAS

DEAR HEARTBROKEN: Regardless of who contributed the sperm that fertilized the egg that became your grandson, the person your son raised IS his son. The bond is there. Your son is the only father he has ever known. If you move forward from there and don't deviate from that path, you should all be able to deal with this in a positive manner.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

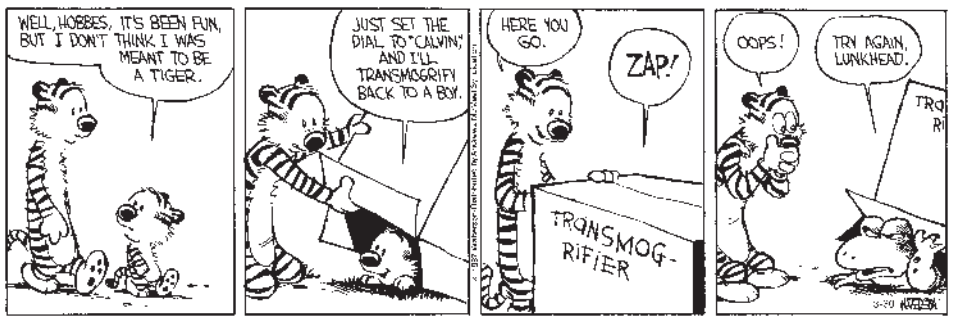
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

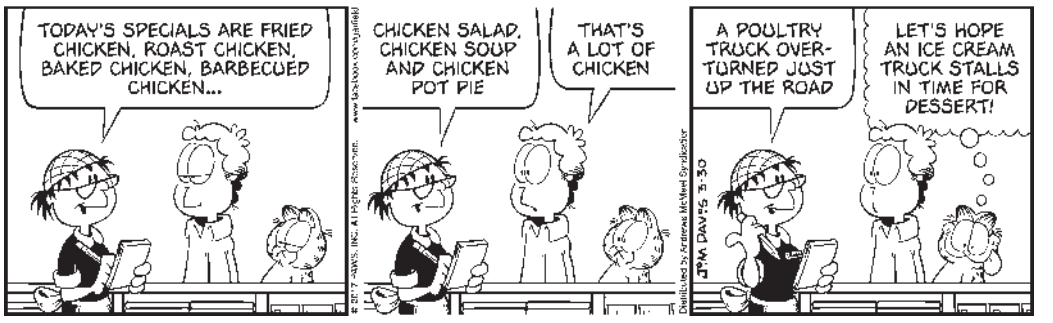
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WELL, HOBBES, IT'S BEEN FUN, BUT I DON'T THINK I WAS MEANT TO BE A TIGER.
JUST SET THE DIAL TO "CALVIN," AND I'LL TRANSMOGRIFY BACK TO A BOY.
HERE YOU GO.
ZAP!
TRANSMOG-RIFIER
OOPS!
TRY AGAIN, LUNKHEAD.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


TODAY'S SPECIALS ARE FRIED CHICKEN, ROAST CHICKEN, BAKED CHICKEN, BARBECUED CHICKEN...
CHICKEN SALAD, CHICKEN SOUP AND CHICKEN POT PIE
THAT'S A LOT OF CHICKEN
A POULTRY TRUCK OVER-TURNED JUST UP THE ROAD
LET'S HOPE AN ICE CREAM TRUCK STALLS IN TIME FOR DESSERT!

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

OKAY, NOW WE ADD THE LEGS INTO THE DANCE. CAREFULLY.
WOW! THE RUNNING MAN IS HARD.
IT'S KIND OF A... A DOUBLE, ONE-FOOTED SHUFFLE...
YOUR FEET SWITCH AND... YOU KEEP 'EM BOTH...
OH! I'M DOING IT!! YOUR FACEPLANT STARTLED ME INTO IT!
WHAM

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THERE'S A GUY ON THE BENCH PRESS WHO KEEPS GRUNTING AND MOANING.
IS THAT ALL?
WELL, IT'S REALLY ANNOYING.
I'LL HAVE THE MANAGER GO IN AND TALK TO HIM. WHAT'S HE LOOK LIKE?
GREEN SHIRT, BLUE SHORTS. OH, AND HE'S GOT A BARBELL STUCK ON HIS NECK.

CROSSWORD

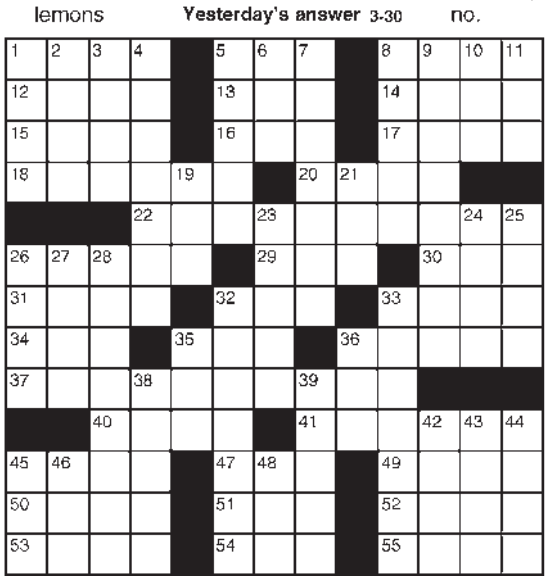
By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Grouch
5 Surpass
8 Taj Mahal city
12 Abode
13 That girl
14 Primary
15 Opposite of "sans"
16 Citrus drink
17 Oodles
18 Fame
20 Minnelli of "Cabaret"
22 Test-taker's second chance
26 Portals
29 Hubbub
30 Fury
31 Egyptian deity
32 Salt Lake athlete
33 Transmit
34 Crib
35 Ostrich's kin
36 Diamond corners
37 Alternate strategy
40 Like lemons
41 Selects from a menu
45 Serve tea
47 Nest occupier
49 Ink smudge
50 Kate of "The Martian"
51 Clean air org.
52 — mater
53 Undo a dele
54 Indian bread
55 Paraphernalia

DOWN
1 Blacken on a grill
2 Peregrinate
3 "So be it"
4 Turns into
5 Express gratitude to
6 British ref. work
7 Musical intro
8 Stupefy
9 Milky Way, et al.
10 Carnival city
11 Busy insect
19 Existed
21 Wall St. debut
23 Devour
24 "Rule, Britannia!" composer
25 Prescriptions, for short
26 Bee Gees' surname
27 Largest continent
28 Pharmacy solution
32 Outlandish number
33 Flood protection
35 Where Ger. is
36 Soap unit
38 Gold measure
39 Boston airport
42 Vogue rival
43 Capital of Italia
44 Luminary
45 Evening hrs.
46 Feedbag tidbit
48 Transcript no.

Solution time: 26 mins.

Yesterday's answer 3-30



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Katy Mixon, 36; Celine Dion, 49; Eric Clapton, 72; Warren Beatty, 80.

Happy Birthday: Give others free rein to operate and observe what happens. Make decisions based on what you see, not what you hear. Stubbornness will not do anyone any good. Channel your energy into making progress and following through with your plans. Set high standards and don't give up just because someone else does. The offers you receive will have pros and cons attached and should be considered carefully. Your numbers are 2, 9, 23, 28, 35, 37, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19)*: Take note of what those around you are doing. Opportunity will be yours if you are willing to take progressive steps to reach your goals. Change can be good as long as your motives are honorable. Protect your personal information and reputation. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20)*: Use unusual tactics to get what you want. Mix and match people, plans and skills to ensure that you reach your goals. Don't feel the need to make changes based on other people's appeals. Do what works best for you. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20)*: You can stabilize your financial situation if you put together a plan that will help you lower your overhead. An opportunity to put a little cash into some long-term investments will ease your mind and your stress. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22)*: It's not what you say, it's what you do that will count. Take an active role in making your life better and helping your community, peers and loved ones achieve positive goals. You can make a difference if you try. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22)*: Don't get angry, get moving. Bring about the changes necessary to protect your rights, position and your reputation. Travel and communication are featured along with moderation and balance. Keep the peace and avoid chaos. Love conquers all. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)*: Travel, meetings and expressing your desires will all turn out well. Don't hold back when you have so much to gain. Step into the spotlight and your allies will surround you. Don't second-guess your abilities. Learn as you go. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)*: Look for ways to improve your home, personal finances and the dynamics between you and those you deal with daily. Getting along with others will encourage good results and the chance to develop long-term relationships. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)*: Set up appointments and meetings that will help you clarify your positions on certain issues that concern you. Being forthright will ensure that you earn the respect and support of others. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)*: Don't rule out what others are doing. Keeping a close watch will help you avoid disappointment or loss. Run a tight ship at home and you will stabilize your situation. Communication will help you bring about positive change. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)*: Spend more time practicing what you preach. Get things done at home that you have been promising to do for some time. Engage in something you enjoy doing with somebody who brings out the best in you. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)*: Be careful while traveling or dealing with matters pertaining to taxes, government or institutional matters. Anger will be your downfall. Use your intelligence to overcome any obstacle you encounter. Changes can be made to enhance your appearance. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20)*: Collaborate with the people who share your beliefs and concerns. Joining forces with someone who can contribute as much as you will make your life easier. Your intuition will not let you down. Inject positive energy into all that you pursue. ✪✪✪✪ Birthday Baby: You are dependable, intuitive and inventive. You are opportunistic and intelligent.

Eugenia's websites -- eugenialast.com for Ask Eugenia, daily timing and compatibility services, and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	7	5	6			4		
	6			1			9	3
9								5
	8		5		6			2
5			3		7		1	
8								9
3	1		2				7	
		7		9	6	8		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	3	4	1	2	6	7	5	8
6	5	8	4	7	3	1	2	9
1	7	2	8	5	9	3	6	4
2	6	5	9	1	4	8	7	3
8	4	1	3	6	7	2	9	5
7	9	3	2	8	5	6	4	1
3	2	7	5	4	1	9	8	6
5	1	6	7	9	8	4	3	2
4	8	9	6	3	2	5	1	7

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/30

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

THE ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX Solution: 5 letters

R	E	C	E	I	P	T	S	S	E	T	A	T	S	E
I	G	N	I	L	I	F	H	S	S	K	C	O	T	S
C	S	N	I	A	G	E	F	E	S	T	A	Ⓣ	U	S
H	A	I	B	T	L	N	L	L	R	S	L	O	Ⓔ	S
R	G	O	S	T	J	E	I	A	T	A	E	L	T	Ⓝ
E	N	I	E	E	O	L	I	S	T	N	T	E	E	T
D	E	R	H	R	I	U	U	N	A	N	K	E	A	N
L	S	E	C	E	N	R	E	L	C	C	E	X	R	E
O	S	E	T	W	T	M	L	S	A	O	A	R	N	M
H	E	Y	A	O	E	E	A	R	N	B	M	I	I	T
E	N	O	P	L	C	L	B	E	L	A	L	E	N	S
R	I	L	P	S	A	D	I	E	S	S	O	R	G	E
A	S	P	I	R	A	L	U	M	R	O	F	L	S	V
H	U	M	Y	C	H	A	R	G	E	S	S	O	L	N
S	B	E	N	E	F	I	T	S	E	X	E	D	N	I

©2017 Andrews McMeel www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 3/30

Benefits, Bond, Brackets, Business, Charges, Earnings, Employee, Estates, Filing, Formula, Gains, Gas, Gross, High, Income, Indexes, Investment, Joint, Latter, Lien, Line, Loan, Loss, Lower, Miscellaneous, Net, Patches, Rate, Receipts, Rental, Rich, Rule, Salary, Sales, Shareholder, Shelters, Single, Status, Stocks, Supplemental, Taxable, Trusts

Yesterday's Answer: Americans

To purchase the **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2**, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

GPPC, INC. Job Opening:

Civil Engineering Technicians (02) $6.60/hr. - $7.50/hour.
Must be a college graduate with minimum of 2- years experience as a Civil Engineering Technician with knowledge how to apply Theory and Principles of Civil Engineering in planning, designing and overseeing construction, structure maintenance and facilities under the directions of engineering staff or physical scientists

Heavy Equipment Mechanic (2) $6.60 - $7.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 5 years experience as Heavy Equipment Mechanic. With knowledge how to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automobiles, hydraulic, and pneumatic equipment, such as cranes, bulldozers, graders, excavators, trucks and conveyors, typically used in constructions.

All of the above positions must be able to work flexible time. Interested applicants may apply at GPPC, Inc. office located at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills, testing maybe required. GPPC, INC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Closing Date: April 04, 2017

JAR DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

Now accepts application for

(2) Mason
(2) Carpenter
(1) Painter

Applicants must have at least 5 years experience in the construction field. Has a good moral character, skilled and can follow work assignment without supervision, can work independently in a flexible time. Qualified applicants may submit application with resume and credential to
Jar Design and Construction
P.O. Box 504249 CK, Saipan, MP 96950

BRAND MANAGER

- Minimum 5 years experience in Sales
- Demonstrates excellent customer service & leadership skills
- Must have proficient computer and strong analytical skills
- Sets goals and strives for effective results
- Communicates effectively with management
- Works well under pressure

Interested candidates may submit their resume to:
employment671@gmail.com

Docomo Pacific (Saipan), Inc. has openings for:

Field Technicians: Duties involve but are not limited to the following: Install new premises wiring, disconnect drop line, de-install "wreck-out" of drop line systems, and re-connect previous customers. Install advance services. Troubleshoot and repair problems with the CATV drop system. Understand the proper operation of customer premises equipment and be able to educate customers on its proper use. Monitor, document and repair CATV leakage. Create CLI leak reports and repairs leakage as required. Lead crew as assigned. Perform audit of questionable connections. Perform sales of new services or upgrades of existing customers. Maintain accurate records. Work safely and follow all OSHA, NEC, and company safety rules and procedures.

Minimum Qualifications: Associate's degree in Electronic or Electrical Engineering or Technology, or closely related field (may be foreign equivalent) and 2 years' experience as a Field or Engineering Technician or closely related job for telecommunications or cable company.

Bench Technician
Duties involve but are not limited to the following: Perform component level bench repair of various electronics equipment. Operate various test equipment. Interpret schematic diagrams. Utilize computer to document, record findings and perform research. Perform after hours stand-by. Perform related duties as assigned. Perform all tasks related to the Hybrid Fiber Coaxial System's operation and maintenance. Possess knowledge of and improve all aspects of the Headend for the HFC Operation and Maintenance. Operate Fusion Splicer. Test fiber strands with an OTDR and other fiber test equipment. Possess knowledge of PathTrak Return Path Monitoring System and Stealth Sweep System. Possess knowledge of FCC compliance testing. Must be able to operate a Spectrum Analyzer and MPEG Analyzer. Observe all OSHA, NEC, and company safety rules and procedures.

Minimum Qualifications: Associate's degree in Electronic or Electrical Engineering or Technology, or closely related field (may be foreign equivalent) and 2 years' experience as a Bench Technician for a telecommunications or cable company. Solid interpersonal communications skills. Highly motivated individual.

Fiber Technician
Duties involve but are not limited to the following: Operation and maintenance of Hybrid Fiber Coaxial Systems. Improves all aspects of the Headend. Operate Fusion Splicer. Test fiber strands with fiber test equipment. Be knowledgeable of Headend Wiring/Cabling Documentation and perform troubleshooting of the Headend. Be knowledgeable of PathTrak Return Path Monitoring System and Stealth Sweep System. Be knowledgeable of FCC compliance testing. Must be able to operate a Spectrum Analyzer and MPEG Analyzer. Observe all OSHA, NEC, and company safety rules and procedures. Perform other related duties, as assigned.

Minimum Qualifications: HS diploma (may be foreign educational equivalent) or GED; 4 years experience as a Fiber or Maintenance Technician or Broadband Cable T.V. Technician for a telecommunications or cable company; must be able to operate Fusion Splicer and test fiber strands with an OTDR and other fiber test equipment; and must have knowledge of the Headend Wiring/Cabling Documentation and PathTrak Return Path Monitoring System.

Tech Zone Supervisor

Duties involve but not limited to the following: Training and support to the techZONE team. Research cellular handset/devices for software (OS) upgrades, Repair and diagnose cellular devices, work to ensure the highest level of customer service and repairs. Maintain highest level of repair turnaround time, service times and wait times.

Minimum Qualifications: HS Diploma or GED required (may be foreign educational equivalent). 2 years experience as inventory support for telecommunications company. Strong computer skills, including Internet, MS Office (Word, Excel, etc). Solid interpersonal communications skills. Ability to read and interpret documents such as safety rules, operating and maintenance instructions, and procedure manuals. Ability to write routine reports and correspondence. Ability to speak effectively before groups of employees of the organization.

For more information or to apply, please visit our website: www.docomopacific.com/careers

Docomo Pacific (Saipan), Inc. offers an excellent benefits package.

- Individual must be authorized to work in the U.S. and its territories.
- Docomo Pacific (Saipan), Inc. is a drug free work place and, therefore, a substance abuse test is also required.
- Docomo Pacific (Saipan), Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Docomo Pacific (Saipan), Inc. provides equal opportunities (EEO) to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, marital status, amnesty, or status of a covered veteran, including disabled veterans with service connected to disabilities in accordance with applicable federal and local laws.

WHATZIT Solution: Unfinished business

ISLANDER MINI MART 1

located at San Antonio, Saipan MP 96950
2- Sales Marketing & Associates
Requirements: Starting rate is $6.55
Flexible working time & minimum of 2 years actual job experience & valid driver license. Part time.
Interested applicants may send their applications at islandereprocess@yahoo.com

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Cad Operator:
Required Bachelor's Degree and 5 years of experience. Proficiency in AutoCAD 2015, Google Sketchup 2016 and Microsoft Office.

Respond to N15 Architects by Email to
admin@n15architects.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

AM MACHINE SHOP & CAR AIRCONDITIONING
(1) Mechanic
At least 3 years experience in Mechanic Job, Knowledgeable in Repairing Car Knowledgeable in Car Airconditioning
Contact No. 323-0102
Contact Person: Adonis Santos

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

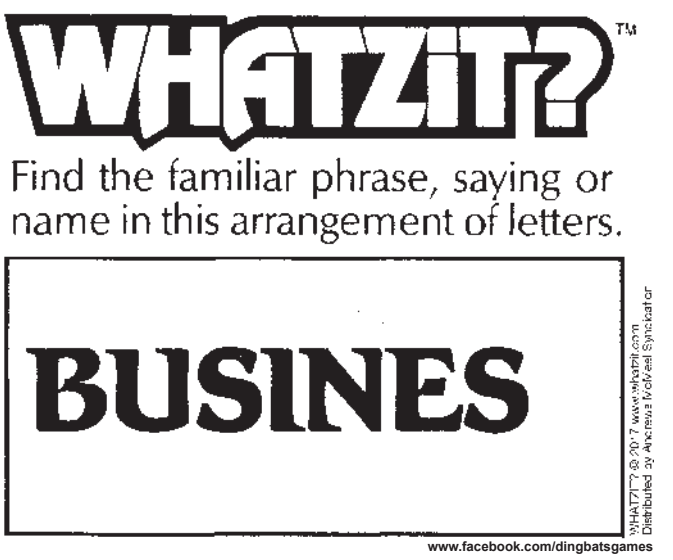
Classified Ads
Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads
Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.
BUSINES
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www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Gold Mantis Construction Decoration(CNMI), LLC

PMB 599 BOX 10000
SAIPAN, MP 96950
Looking for U.S. Workers, please email your resume to:
goldmantiscnmi@gmail.com or call 670-322-9880

- **JOB TITLE: BRICK LAYER**
- **NUMBER OF OPENINGS: 200**
- **SALARY RANGE: $7.05 to $10 /Hourly**
- **JOB DUTIES:** Independently lay ceramic tiles and stone materials, obey construction arrangement and consciously complete allocated construction tasks, construct building according to work order without arbitrarily changing construction items and requirements, rapidly construct building with good quality and enough quantity during working time, get raw materials according to list of construction items, economize raw materials and eradicate waste, ensure that residual raw materials are recycled properly and stored into warehouse, ensure that raw materials are cleared after completion for customer satisfaction, pay attention to the safety of construction so as to prevent theft, fire disaster and personal injury, ensure that work order and materials order be timely checked and signed.
- **QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:** Familiar with dry hanging technology of stone materials; skillfully operate cutting machine, angle grinder and other special machinery for brick laying. Must have at least a few months to 1 year experience.

- **JOB TITLE: PAINTER**
- **NUMBER OF OPENINGS: 200**
- **SALARY RANGE: $7.05 to $10 /Hourly**
- **JOB DUTIES:** Conscientiously and completely finish assigned tasks with good quality, and full rate if progress, correctly use and protect paint, alcohol, banana oil, and other volatile, inflammable and explosive chemicals; safely operate equipment according to technological operation specification; eradicate fire disaster, poisoning, electrical shock, etc., abide by rules and regulation of the company without violating laws and discipline; lend paint according to requirement of technology ; master the method of roughly estimating the precision of paint, operate air compression pump, exhaust fan, etc.; correctly use and read meters(i.e., barometer, thermometer, etc.)
- **QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:** Familiar with the operating skill of spraying paint, must have the ability to read construction drawings, have a good command of kinds of special tools, independently paint putty and complete polish work, do surface latex decoration work, expertly pave and paste wall paper, spray paint wooden surfaces. At least a few months to 1 year of related experience and/or training, or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Must have at least a few months to 1 year of experience.

- **JOB TITLE: WOODWORKER**
- **NUMBER OF OPENINGS: 300**
- **SALARY RANGE: $7.05 to $10 /Hourly**
- **JOB DUTIES:** Responsible for all work about civil engineering in construction site, arrange and elaborately construct the project according to the overall construction planning, follow the command of leader of construction team and timely complete each task assigned solve existing technique problems and quality in construction, arrange working procedures to create safe working conditions, provide written safety technique disclosure to guarantee geometric dimensioning meets drawing requirements, axes shifting must be controlled in permitted scope; deviation of standard height must not exceed norm, cooperate with other workers to well hand over working procedure, consciously abide be rules and regulations of the company, obey the arrangement of superior leaders.
- **QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:** Able to read construction drawings, able to skillfully operate kinds of special tools, able to install made-up wood surface, able to independently make light-steel suspension system, wall partition system, soft wall surface, and hard wall surface; comprehensively familiar with design blueprint, master design alteration, and technical disclosure of proprietors. Must have at least a few months to 1 year of experience.

- **JOB TITLE: ELECTRICIAN**
- **NUMBER OF OPENINGS: 100**
- **SALARY RANGE: $7.05 to $10 /Hourly**
- **JOB DUTIES:** Diagnose and repair electrical problems in commercial and domestic electrical systems, including fault-finding, rewiring, and monitoring Assess the parts needed for a job and place orders for those parts Conduct routine maintenance and testing on commercial and domestic electrical systems, and ensure installations are to manufacturer standards, including in fire alarms and security systems Rewire faulty electrical systems, such as lighting, heating systems, and alarms Ensure good quality workmanship which upholds company standards, complies with building codes, and follows safety requirements Work alone to find and present faults and concerns in electrical systems without receiving explicit direction
- **QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:** Previous Electrical Experience, Lighting, Wiring, Alarm Systems, Fire Prevention Systems, Strong Written and Verbal Communication, Electrical Maintenance

- **JOB TITLE: ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**
- **NUMBER OF OPENING: 3**
- **SALARY RANGE: $7.05 to $18 /hourly**
- **JOB DUTIES:**
  - Manages and executes administrative, project, and executive support activities associated with the office of a core division or equivalent component of the company. Reporting directly to the principal executive officer of the entity, serves as principle point of administrative contact and liaison with internal and external constituencies.
  - Provides and/or oversees the provision of direct staff support to the office manager. Provides specialist administrative services as appropriate in such areas as public/community relations, faculty, staff, general business administration; and/or development and relations, depending upon the functional area supported.
  - Oversees and administers the day-to-day activities of the office; develops policies, procedures, and systems which ensure productive and efficient office operation.
  - Provides assistance and support in problem solving, project planning and management, and development and execution of stated goals and objectives.
  - Provides and/or oversees provision of staff support to the office, to include handling walk-up and phone interactions, maintaining calendars and travel arrangements, screening, analyzing, and responding to incoming correspondence, handling day-to-day problems and situations, and provision of secretarial support.
  - Provides assistance in the understanding and interpretation of company policies and procedures, as appropriate, and ensures that office operations are in compliance with policy provisions and standards.
  - Assists in the coordination, supervision, and completion of special projects, as appropriate.
- **QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**
  - Completed degree(s) from an accredited institution that are above the minimum education requirement may be substituted for experience on a year for year basis
  - Bachelor's degree; 2 years of directly related experience managing at least one of the following functional areas: fiscal services, administration and/or human resources
  - Must be able to speak, read, and write in Mandarin
- **EXPERIENCE**
  - Five years of additional work experience directly related to the duties and responsibilities specified.

- **JOB TITLE: ACCOUNTANT**
- **NUMBER OF OPENING: 3**
- **SALARY RANGE: $7.05 to $18 /hourly**
- **JOB DUTIES:** Prepare and verify daily reports. Prepare daily income/sales and prepare daily journal entry. Prepare daily deposits of ticket sales receipts. Reconcile bank account for ticketing office. Communicate with ticketing managers and others working on the ticketing systems problems. Prepare authorized refund vouchers. Compile monthly reports. Investigate and collect returned items. Maintain returned check account. Maintain chargeback account. Prepare monthly balance sheet schedules. Preparing accounts and tax returns. Administering payrolls and controlling income and expenditure. Auditing financial information. Compiling and presenting reports, budgets, business plans, commentaries and financial statements. Financial forecasting and risk analysis.
- **QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:** Competency in Microsoft applications including Word, Excel and Outlook. Organizational, verbal and written communication skills a must. Attention to detail and ability to multi-task is an asset. Requires 3-year-experience. Chinese speaking preferred.

CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

Francisco C. Cabrera
dba Design Florist/Cabrera Funeral

Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) Flower Arranger
- Must have at least 3 years experience.
- Able to work flexible hours.

All interested applicant must apply in person.
Cabrera Center Bldg., Beach Road, Garapan

Quality Builders is looking to hire

2 Seamstress
5 Carpenters
5 Masons

Please email resume to kcmarquez0218 @gmail.com

Danes Construction Corporation
is looking for the following:

(9) Carpenter
(15) Mason
(1) Accounting Technician
(1) Computer Support Technician

Must have 5 years experience & maybe subject for a skill test. Interested applicants may send their application to danes@guam.net

Island Pro Services
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

- **(6) Commercial Cleaner:** Minimum wage Two to five years experience in a related field.

For inquiries or resume submission, please email islandpro2015@gmail.com
Serious Inquiries Only Please

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Clinical Embryologist
Must have 2 years lab experience, plus experience in clinical embryology.
Salary Negotiable.
Call Karen at 322-0419

PACIFIC ISLAND CLEANING AGENCY
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(1) General Maintenance
(3) Commercial Cleaners
Must have 5 years experience.
Please send resume to PO Box 502670 Koblerville, Saipan MP, 96950
E-mail:hectorsablan@yahoo.com

Pacific Biomedical Services, Inc.
P.O. Box 502478,
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 288-0566
Fax: (670) 234-2618

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

•Medical Equipment Repairer: This position requires working in the acute health care environment assisting in maintain and repairing wide variety of systems including but not limited to oxygen enrichment systems, reverse osmosis, medical vacuum, medical compressed air, life safety systems and general biomedical/dental equipments. Individual will work under close supervision of Biomedical Service Engineer and must possess basic knowledge of Electronics or Electricity.

•Maintenance Worker: He/she will be responsible to maintaining building and grounds of company property and office. Not limited to plumbing, repairs around office, work space of clients and warehouse, supervises landscaping work and maintains inventory at warehouse. Also general duties of deliver/pickup of supplies and performs duties as assigned.

D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

SALES REPRESENTATIVE - HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

A minimum of 3 years work related experience required with a successful, proven sales record. Ideally with an Associate's Degree in Sales & Marketing or related field with experience in F&B, menu preparation & costing. Must be able to lift 50lbs. Ideally would have understanding of wine distribution. Makes outside sales calls to established customers and cold calls to potential customers. Coordinates deliveries. Researches potential products from experience, menu content or health requirements. Proficient in MS Excel, Word, Outlook. Ability to speak Mandarin, Cantonese, Japanese or Korean an advantage. Must have a valid driver's license. Availability to work evenings, holidays and weekends is also required.

Interested applicants must have their own reliable transportation. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.

ACCOUNTANT

BA in Accounting and a minimum of 3 years experience is required, including preparation of financial statements, processing accounts receivables & payables and other general accounting procedures. Must possess work-related skills, have knowledge & experience in purchasing, inventory control and bank reconciliation. Proficient in various computer software: MS Excel, Word, Outlook and SAGE or similar accounting system. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Interested applicants may submit an application and/or resume at our Saipan office located in the C.T.S.I. building, Lower Base, by April 7, 2017. Applications may also be sent to: mpk@dandq-international.com. The successful applicant will be required to provide a police clearance.

D&Q is an equal opportunity employer and has a drug free work environment. Pre-employment and random drug testing may be required.

Wizards beat Lakers to clinch division title

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Water pooled on a table in the middle of the noisy locker room and soaked in the carpet. The Washington Wizards had just celebrated clinching the Southeast Division for the franchise's first division title in 38 years.

"We had a little water bottle fight in here," a smiling Bradley Beal said after a 119-108 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday night. "It's history for us."

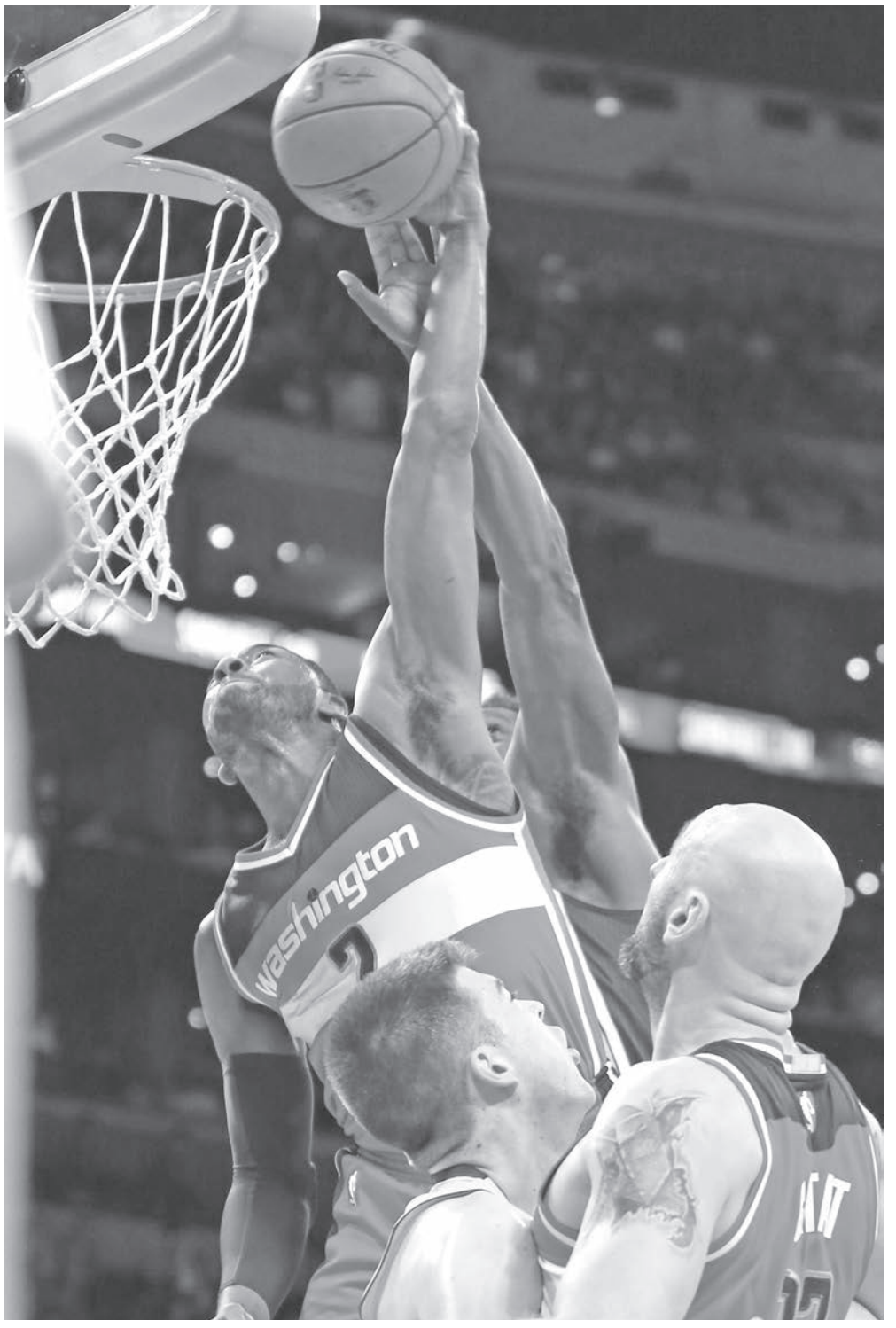
John Wall shot 14 of 25 for 34 points and Beal was held to 16 points on 7-of-16 shooting, but the Wizards ended the longest division-title drought in NBA history with their fourth straight victory.

"John and I especially, we've been on the team for five years," Beal said. "It's bigtime for us and we're excited to keep it moving forward."

When the franchise last claimed a division title in 1978-79, it was known as the Bullets of the Atlantic Division and played in suburban Landover, Maryland. The team had won its lone NBA championship the previous season and went on to lose the 1979 Finals to the Seattle SuperSonics.

"Quite an accomplishment," first-year coach Scott Brooks said. "It's a credit to everyone in the organization."

From 1979-80 on, Washington has had one of the worst winning percentages in the league, and while the team has made the playoffs 14 times in that span, it hasn't gotten past the second round.



AP

Washington Wizards guard John Wall dunks the ball in front of Los Angeles Lakers forward Julius Randle, rear obstructed, during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, March 28, 2017, in Los Angeles.

Warriors 113, Rockets 106

In Houston, Stephen Curry scored 32 points, Klay Thompson had 25 and the Golden State Warriors built a big lead early and held on for a 113-106 win over the Houston Rockets on Tuesday night.

The Warriors scored 37 points in the first quarter and never trailed on the way to their eighth straight victory and 60th this season.

Golden State led by eight after a pair of free throws by Curry with just over three minutes left. Patrick Beverley countered with a tip-in layup for Houston, then was fouled when he was knocked to the ground on a screen by Draymond Green seconds later.

James Harden missed a layup on the next possession before Green added a shot on the other end to put the Warriors up 107-99.

Another layup miss by Harden followed, and Curry made a 3-pointer with 1:46 left to send fans streaming to the exits.

Heat 97, Pistons 96

In Auburn Hills, Hassan Whiteside tipped in a shot with his left hand as time expired to lift Miami over Detroit.

Whiteside, playing with a thick bandage on his right hand to protect 13 stitches he got a week ago, tipped in Goran Dragic's miss after a wild final play over the game's final 11.3 seconds. James Johnson took the initial shot for Miami, Dragic muscled the rebound off the rim and Whiteside elevated over Andre Drummond for the winning tip.

The win was huge for Miami (36-38), which moved one game ahead of No. 9 Chicago and 2 1/2 games ahead of No. 10 Detroit for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Trail Blazers 122, Nuggets 113

In Portland, Jusuf Nurkic had a career-high 33 points with 16 rebounds against his former team, CJ McCollum had 39 points and Portland beat Denver to take hold of the eighth seed in the Western Conference.

Portland leads Denver by a game for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference. The Blazers also clinched the season-series tiebreaker with the Nuggets, giving them an upper hand with eight games to play.

Jameer Nelson led Denver with 23 points.

The Blazers got Nurkic involved early against his former team. On Portland's first possession, Nurkic scored on a post-up play against Nikola Jokic, who took Nurkic's starting spot in Denver.

Hawks 95, Suns 91

In Atlanta, Dennis Schroder hit consecutive 3-pointers to spark a 17-1 run for a victory that snapped Atlanta's a seven-game losing streak and boosting its playoff hopes.

The Suns lost their ninth in a row in a matchup of teams with the two longest active losing streaks in the NBA.

Playing again without All-Star forward Paul Millsap and two other key players, the Hawks raced to an 18-point lead in the first quarter. But Atlanta sleepwalked through the next two periods and went nearly 4 1/2 minutes in the fourth without scoring.

The Suns, without Devin Booker, took advantage of the Hawks' shooting woes, finally taking their first lead on Alan Williams' lay-in with 10:37 remaining and stretching the margin to 78-71.

Timberwolves 115, Pacers 114

In Indianapolis, Ricky Rubio made three free throws with 3.4 seconds left to give Minnesota a victory over Indiana.

Minnesota snapped a season-high six-game losing streak by taking its only lead of the quarter. Rubio had 21 points and 10 assists, and Karl-Anthony Towns had 37 points and 12 rebounds.

Rubio was fouled by Jeff Teague, though it appeared Rubio ran into his own teammate on the play. Indiana fans booed the officials as they left the court.

Indiana's Monta Ellis got off a last-second 3-point shot, but he was off the mark.

Bucks 118, Hornets 108

In Charlotte, Tony Snell scored a season-high 26 points, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 20 points and eight rebounds and Milwaukee handed Charlotte's playoff hopes a potentially devastating blow.

Malcolm Brogdon had 14 points and 10 assists for his second double-double of the season, and the Bucks won for the 12th time in 15 games.

Snell finished 10 of 14 from the field and had four 3-pointers.

Charlotte (33-41) entered in 11th place in the Eastern Conference but only two games behind the Miami Heat and in dire need of a win with only nine games remaining.

Sixers 106, Nets 101

In New York, Dario Saric scored 23 points, Robert Covington had 21 points and 13 rebounds and undermanned Philadelphia beat Brooklyn.

Rookie guard Timothe Luwawu-Cabarrot had 17 points and nine boards for the 76ers, who dressed only nine players.

Philadelphia was without center Jahlil Okafor, who missed his third straight game due to right knee soreness, and veteran guard Gerald Henderson, who did not play because of soreness in his left hip.

Brook Lopez led the Nets with 26 points, nine rebounds and six assists. Jeremy Lin and Rondae Hollis-Jefferson each chipped in 11 points.

NFL owners vote to revamp video replay for officiating

PHOENIX (AP)—One day after approving the Oakland Raiders' move to Las Vegas, NFL owners got busy passing several rules changes and adopting resolutions they believe will speed the game and enhance player safety.

Most notable Tuesday was the change in handling officiating of video replays. Referees will now watch replays on the field using Surface tablets, eliminating "going under the hood" to watch on television monitors.

League officiating chief Dean Blandino and his staff in New York will make the final decisions on those calls, with input from the referee, who in the past was the ultimate arbiter after consulting with league headquarters.

"And I think that's important to remember, we're not taking the referee out of the equation," Blandino has said. "The referee will still be involved, the referee will still give input, but will no longer have the final say."

Also at the league meetings owners extended bringing touchbacks out to the 25-yard line for another year; eliminating "leapers" trying to block field goals or extra points; added protections for defenseless receivers running their routes; and made permanent the rule disqualifying a player who is penalized twice in a game for specific unsportsmanlike conduct fouls.

A proposal to cut overtime in the regular season from 15 minutes to 10 was tabled for more study and likely will be brought back at the May meetings in Chicago.

Also tabled was eliminating the mandatory summer cutdown to 75 players, which would leave only one cut at the end of preseason.

Voted down were suggestions to permit coaches to challenge any officials' decisions other than scoring plays and turnovers, which automatically are reviewed.

Washington's proposal to move the line of scrimmage to the 20-yard line instead of the 25 if a kickoff is sent through the uprights was defeated.

Other actions taken Tuesday included:

■ Crackback blocks by a backfield player who goes in motion are now banned.

■ Creating an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty for committing multiple fouls during the same down with the purpose of manipulating the game clock.

■ Allowing teams to interview or hire an employee of another team during the season if the other team consents.

■ Modified some bylaws regarding bringing draft-eligible players to clubs' facilities; changed procedures for returning a player to the active ranks from lists such as physically unable to perform, non-football injury or non-football illness.

The leaper rule clearly falls under the category of enhancing player safety, competition committee chairman Rich McKay said last week.

FIFA bans Messi for 4 World Cup q'fying games

GENEVA (AP)—Lionel Messi is banned from Argentina's next four World Cup qualifying games, dealing a blow to a campaign by the 2014 runner-up that has stuttered without him.

Messi's suspension for "having directed insulting words at an assistant referee" during a home qualifier last week against Chile started on Tuesday, shortly before his teammates played Bolivia in La Paz.

Without Messi, Argentina went on to lose the qualifier 2-0.

The five-time FIFA player of the year can appeal to FIFA, but is on track to return for Argentina's final match in the 10-team South American qualifying group, hosting Ecuador on Oct. 10.

"We have to appeal this decision, we'll see how it goes," said Jorge Miadosqui, Argentina's national teams director. "But we're left angry and sad because (Messi) will not be with the team."

Argentina has relied on its captain Messi to move up to third place in a group where the top four qualify for the tournament in Russia. The fifth-place team will enters a playoff in November, likely against New Zealand.

Messi has scored in four qualifiers so far, with Argentina going on to win every game. Without him, though, Argentina has earned only seven points out of a possible 24.

The 1978 and 1986 world champion is now only two points ahead of sixth place, currently held by Chile, which was playing Venezuela later on Tuesday.

Argentina's next match is away to Uruguay on Aug. 31. Then it has two home games against struggling sides: Venezuela on Sept. 5 and Peru on Oct. 5.

It was close to a must-win match last Thursday when Argentina hosted Chile, the team it lost to in the Copa America finals of 2015 and 2016

Argentina won 1-0 after Messi scored with a first-half penalty at the vibrant Monumental Stadium in Buenos Aires, but he lost his cool in the closing minutes.

Messi reacted angrily when a decision went against him and aimed a volley of profane abuse at the assistant. He refused to shake hands with the official after the match.

FIFA could intervene as the incident was not initially reported by the Brazilian referee. It was judged a red-card offense for Messi.

"This decision is in line with the FIFA Disciplinary Committee's previous rulings in similar cases," said the world soccer body, which also fined Messi 10,000 Swiss francs ($10,160).

Messi and the Argentine soccer federation can challenge the ban at FIFA's appeals committee. It rarely overturns disciplinary rulings, though it could reduce the number of games he must miss.

A subsequent appeal does not currently seem possible to the Court of Arbitration for Sport. FIFA's legal statutes do not grant jurisdiction to the Swiss-based CAS in "appeals arising from ... suspensions of up to four matches."

The Messi ban adds further turmoil to the embattled Argentina soccer federation, which is currently being run by an emergency committee appointed by FIFA last June.

A previous generation of Argentine soccer leaders were implicated in corruption and indicted by the U.S. Department of Justice in 2015, and subsequent federation elections were disputed. New elections are scheduled this week.

The interim federation leader questioned FIFA's judgment Tuesday.

"I think it's unusual because it will set a precedent that will decide the future of many things," Armando Perez told Argentina's TyC Sports channel. "I think it's too sensitive for something like this. They should have reasoned or contemplated this is in another way.

"Four games is too much."

Messi's behavior and ban could affect his chances of winning FIFA's best player award for 2017, even if his club Barcelona wins the Champions League.

FIFA guidance to voters is that on-and-off-field conduct should be taken into account.

Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo are in a career-long duel for the game's most prestigious prize, and the Portugal and Real Madrid forward won his fourth FIFA award in January to draw within one of his great rival.

In a stark contrast for soccer's global stars, Messi has been shamed this week while Ronaldo was rewarded with the airport in his home island of Madeira being named in his honor.

AP

In this photo taken Thursday March 23, 2017, Argentina's Lionel Messi argues assistant referee Emerson Augusto de Carvalho during a World Cup qualifying match against Chile in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Messi has been banned from Argentina's next four World Cup qualifiers, starting with Tuesday's game in Bolivia, for "having directed insulting words at an assistant referee" during a home qualifier against Chile on Thursday, FIFA said hours before kickoff in La Paz.

Dempsey, Pulisic star again as US ties Panama

PANAMA CITY (AP)—Christian Pulisic made an outstanding individual move to steal the ball, spin a defender and feed Clint Dempsey for his 56th international goal, and the United States hung on for an important 1-1 draw against Panama on Tuesday night in World Cup qualifying.

Dempsey's 39th-minute goal on a warm and humid night moved him within one of Landon Donovan's American scoring record, but the lead did not last long. Gabriel Gomez tied the score four minutes later following a throw-in.

Tim Howard thwarted Luis Tejada with a between-the-legs stop in the 59th minute, at 38 providing another top night in goal.

The U.S. was reeling after its first two games in the final round of the North and Central American and Caribbean region, 0-2 and last in the hexagonal.

Jurgen Klinsmann was fired in November and replaced by Bruce Arena, the U.S. coach from 1998-2006, and the Americans accomplished their immediate goal by getting back into contention with Friday's 6-0 home rout of Honduras and a valuable point on the road.

Mexico leads with 10 points, followed by Costa Rica with seven, Panama with five, the U.S. and Honduras with four each, and Trinidad and Tobago with three.

El Tri won 1-0 at Trinidad and Costa Rica rallied for a 1-1 tie at Honduras. The top three nations qualify for next year's World Cup in Russia, and the No. 4 team advances to a playoff against Asia's fifth-place nation.

Play resumes June 8 when the U.S. hosts Trinidad, most likely at Commerce City, Colorado, and the Americans start the second half of their schedule three days later at Mexico.

Pulisic, an 18-year-old who made his international debut on March 29 last year, is quickly establishing himself as the top American player with rare skill. He stole the ball from Panama captain Felipe Baloy at the edge of the penalty area and broke in on goal. He stopped, stepped on the ball with his right foot as defender Roman Torres spun, played the ball from his right foot to his left and cut it back to Dempsey.

The 34-year-old returned to the national team with a hat trick Friday after missing nine months because of an irregular heartbeat, and Pulisic assisted on two of them. The pair combined again, with Dempsey scoring with a right-footed shot from 6 yards while sliding on his backside.

Panama tied the score on Gomez's 12th international goal, the first against the U.S. in four games under Arena. Adolfo Machado's throw-in bounced off a scrum, and Gomez beat Tim Ream and Jorge Villafana to the loose ball for the open shot from 4 yards that went past Howard inside the far post.

Fans, almost all in Panama red, filled about three-quarters of 32,000-capacity Estadio Rommel Fernandez, a two-deck oval with a track. A renovation in 2009 added about 7,000 seats, luxury suites and a fan gathering area above one end.

A large red banner with white block letters was draped over the front of the stands behind a goal: "!AQUI SE NOS RESPETA! (HERE WE ARE RESPECTED!)" Another banner, in Russian, fluttered atop the stadium and appeared to say: "Our dream ... to go to the championship." Next year's World Cup will be held in Russia.

Music blared for more than four hours before kickoff. Fans booed "The Star-Spangled Banner" only a little and let loose a flare during Panama's anthem that left smoke above the field when the match began.

Mexico's Cesar Ramos was the referee in place of countryman Roberto Garcia, who was injured according to CONCACAF deputy general secretary Ted Howard.

The temperature had cooled to 81 degrees by the 9:05 p.m. start, but humidity remained high.

Arena made three changes to his starting lineup, inserting Ream and Graham Zusi on the back line, and midfielder Jermaine Jones. Midfielder Sebastian Lletget injured his left foot in Friday's 6-0 home win over Honduras and will be sidelined four to six months. Defender John Brooks left with a sinus infection and defender Geoff Cameron was substituted early in the second half.

The U.S. already was missing three projected starters because of injuries: midfielder Fabian Johnson, right back DeAndre Yedlin and forward Bobby Wood.

Zusi received some extra lusty boos. His injury time goal four years ago for the already qualified U.S. eliminated Panama from advancing to a playoff against New Zealand.

Skechers brings you to the finish line

Martin Jambor ran his first marathon last weekend, making it to the finish line sporting a pair of reliable Skechers running shoes.

"I bought it last year and ran all my training sessions with it. It has logged about 800K. They are just perfect. I am very satisfied and thankful that my Skechers brought me in to my very first marathon finish line," said Jambor.

The Kanoa Resort general manager is more known for kicking balls in soccer games than doing road races, but when he decided to take running seriously, the very first thing he thought of was to get a pair of right shoes.

"I used to pick the running shoes of many different brands without any special care. But since I became more focused and decided to run regularly, I started to choose my running shoes very carefully. In fact, when I made the decision that I will try to run 42K last November , I went to Guam and pick a very nice and comfy real shoes for runners—they called them GORun Strada Skechers," said Jambor, who completed his first marathon under five hours (4:41:19).

GORun Strada is just one of the well-cushioned and especially-designed shoes under Skechers' growing collection. The latest one is the GORun 400—which comes in different colors (black, pink, maroon, blue, and orange)

Das Krishnan and Ronald Villafria crossed the finish line of their respective races in last Saturday's 2017 Saipan Marathon wearing GORun 400.

Krishnan, who ran half marathons in the past, opted to do the 10K this year and though he picked a shorter course, he stuck with the same brand of shoes that has been time tested.

"Whether you are running a short or long distance course, the most important thing is to have the right shoes—something that makes you feel comfortable while running and won't leave you injured or hurting after and during the race," said Krishnan.

"Especially, if you don't have enough time to train for the race, it's best to pick the right shoes that will help you go through the course way much easier, if not faster," the Fiesta Resort & Spa F&B manager added.

Krishnan's GORun 400 is so comfortable and well cushioned because its midsole combines with a biometric design and breathable mesh upper for an advanced yet lightweight run.

Villafria, who did 10K and half marathon races in the past using his old reliable GoRun Ultra, had his first marathon last weekend and tried the GO-Run 400.

"It's the same brand, so I knew I'll be safe with it. I've been using Skechers for the past several years and I could say that I am sticking with it because it is well cushioned and comfortable, easing pressure to my tired feet," said Villafria, who was among the Top 6 overall finisher (fourth) in the men's division of last Saturday's Saipan Marathon after timing in at 3:50:51.

Das Krishnan is about to cut the tape during the 10K race in last Saturday's 2017 Saipan Marathon.

"I've seen runners starting off strong only to get injured in the last stages of the race and not finish because their shoes were not specifically made for running and they got blisters all over. With Skechers, my chances of making it to the finish line are better," Villafria added.

Ronald Villafria, second left, and Martin Jambor, fourth left, pose for a photo with cultural dancers after completing the 2017 Saipan Marathon last Saturday.

Besides GORun 400, Skechers also launched early this year D' Lites, whose classic look gets updated with comfort because of its smooth trubuck leather and fabric upper in a lace up sporty casual sneaker with stitching and overlay accents. Skechers D'Lites comes with memory foam insole.

To see a wide selection of Skechers D'Lites and other offerings of Skechers, check out iShop at Kanoa Resort, Fiesta Resort, and Paseo de Marianas.

SKECHERS
GORUN
400
Comfortable and well cushioned with the Skechers GOrun 400 shoe. 5GEN™ midsole combines with a biometric design and breathable mesh upper for an advanced yet lightweight run.
Enjoy Saipan!
iSHOP
iShop Fiesta Resort & Spa
iShop Kanoa Resort
iShop Paseo de Marianas

Below are other Skechers products:

Go Walk 3 For Men & Women
Lightweight, slip-on walking shoe featuring breathable mesh, full-length Goga mat insole, and flexible two-piece sole unit with Resalyte and Goga pillars

Skechers Sport Men's Equalizer Familiar Slip-On Loafer
Woven stretch fabric upper in a slip on athletic comfort walking sneaker with Gel Infused Memory Foam insole and Micro-Litemidsole.Gel Infused Memory Foam insole will keep your feet begging for more walk time while the stretchy woven upper gives a sporty look delivering ultimate breathability and flexibility.

Skechers H2go
Instant warm weather fun comes in the SKECHERS H2GO - Waterlillys shoe.One piece Skech Flex sculpted EVA plastic foam upper in a slip on casual sporty aqua shoe with sculpted accents.

Women's Go Flex Sandals
Sporty fabric upper with articulated, segmented flexible sole design. Designed with Skechers Performance technology and materials specifically for athletic walking. Goga Mat, Technology insole with high-rebound cushioning.

Skechers Go Walk 3 STAG Sandals For Men
Smooth leather-tex fabric upper in a sporty casual comfort flip flop thong sandal with Goga Mat footbed and Skechers GOwalk 3 design sole.

Skechers Cali Women's Meditation Slingback Yoga Flip-Flop
Rhinestone studio sling back sandal with yoga foam

Woman Bobs Casual Shoes
Skechers Bobs series of women a pedal flat shoes, upper lace cloth, breathable and comfortable, more fashionable; use of memory insoles, so that the foot immediately feel comfortable wearing feelings; TPR outsole, durable.

599 join Saipan Marathon

Five hundred ninety-nine competitors from 14 countries and territories registered for last Saturday's 12th Saipan Marathon, with 446 actually starting on race day, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority

Two hundred fifty-four competitors hailed from The Marianas, with other countries represented including Japan, Korea, China, the Philippines, USA, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Russia, Nepal, Macau, Guam, Hong Kong, and Great Britain. The race attracted runners for the grueling 50K course, the full marathon, the half marathon, and the 10K course.

Leading the full marathon finishers was Seiya Shimozawa (2:44:28) of Japan in the men's division, while Kim King-Hinds (3:56:32) of The Marianas topped the women's division. In the half marathon, Daichi Suzuki (1:19:58) of Japan led the men's division and Jiyun Lee (1:33:34) of Korea ruled the women's division. Topping the 10K race and repeating his 2016 first place finish was Keith Longuski (00:38:43) of The Marianas in the men's division, while Tomoe Yokoyama (00:42:03) of Japan won in the women's division. Out of 40 men who braved the 50K course, Abe Masaki (3:24:03) of Japan finished first, while Takahama Kasumi (4:02:50) of Japan bested 12 other women.

"The Saipan Marathon continues to grow in popularity every year and with our new AIMS and IAAF course certification, we expect to host even more runners from around the world next year, " said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We thank all our sponsors and volunteers without whom we could not put on this great sporting event. We were thrilled to see some eccentric personalities partake in this event, and we hope to launch a costume competition next year, if feasible, to keep the Saipan Marathon lively and appealing,"

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Skechers-sponsored runners Ronald Villafria, fifth left, and Martin Jambor, sixth left, join their fellow Kanoa Resort employees for a group photo after completing their respective races in last Saturday's Saipan Marathon.

This year's marathon saw the participation of several Japanese comedians who assisted with the presentation of awards, including long-time marathon supporter Kanpei Hazama and Japanese actor and TV personality Makoto Nonomura.

Major sponsors this year were: Delta Air Lines, Scalp D, Earth Chemical, Runtomo, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, DFS Saipan, and Northern Marianas Athletics. In- kind contributors are: Hyatt Regency, Island Apparel, Saipan Advertising, and Niizeki International Co., Ltd. Additional support was provided by the following government and private sector offices and individuals: Saipan Mayor's Office, Division of Parks and Grounds, Department of Public Safety, American Memorial Park, Hawaiian Rock Products, Department of Public Works, and Japan Saipan Travel Association.

Aid stations were manned by members of HANMI and other groups, including: Northern Marianas Athletics, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Coral Ocean Golf Resort, Imperial Pacific International, Saipan World Resort, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Kanoa Resort, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Tasi Tours & Transportation, Pacific Development Inc., Hyatt Regency Saipan, IT&E, Kensington Resort Saipan, Aqua Resort Club, Mariana Resort & Spa, Staywell, Marianas Health Services, Northern Marianas College Nursing, Commonwealth Health Care Corp. Nursing, and Mt. Carmel High School. ***(MVA)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hiroyuki Miyoshi, left, and Sochie Nohara of Japan tackle the 50K course of the Saipan Marathon in style.

TWIN

From Page 28

Laxa fired 9 straight points for the Ol'Aces Elite, giving his team a 21-14 advantage midway in the second half. 670 Sonics/PHI then managed to recover and tied the match at 21-all, behind Kristian Itaas and Paulo Cadag, however they fell short in the end, as they made only two field goals in the closing minutes of the match.

The Ol'Aces Elite, on the other hand, drilled five field goals, with two of its last three coming from Ogasawara to save the win.

Meanwhile, Tanapag whipped Agape Christian School, 57-32, in the boys U15 division game last Tuesday.

Francisco Kumuich and Joel Norita teamed up in powering Tanapag to the easy win after logging 18 and 14 points. Aven Evangelista and Jacob Malonzo combined for 15 to provide help in the team's debut victory.

Tanapag established an early double-digit advantage as it went up by 11 by halftime, 28-17, and padded its lead in the second half to down Agape.

BOYS U15
Monday's Game

Ol'Aces Elite 33 — Laxa 10, Abejo 8, Ogasawara 4, Soriano 3, Omelau 3, Elchico 2, Menchor 2, Ichihara 1.

670 Sonics/PHI 30 — Itaas 17, Contreras 4, Cagad 4, Bravo 3, Sablan 2.

Scoring by halves: 12-12, 33-30.

Tuesday's Game

Tanapag 57 — Kumuich 18, Norita 14, Evangelista 8, Malonzo 7, Atalig 4, Salilin 2.

Agape 32 — Yang 10, T. Xu 6, Bao 4, Peter 4, S. Xu 4, Cai 4.

Scoring by halves: 28-17, 57-32.

BOYS U18

Ol'Aces 82 — Santos 15, Onopwy 9, Bondoc 9, Castro 8, Pangelinan 6, Blake 6, Aiferson 5, Castillo 3, Sablan 2.

Northside Wolves 35 — Soriano 10, Angelo 7, Zhang 6, De Jose 6, Ferrer 2, Alonzo 2.

Scoring by halves: 46-13, 82-35.

TRACK

From Page 28

phalt will be poured around the eight-lane track.

"The next step would be leveling after the asphalt work is done, then the padding and placing of the rubber particles. Lots of cleaning is also required," said Rangamar.

Once the resurfacing work is completed, NMSA, which is the caretaker of the facility, will impose stricter rules on the track usage. The association will also talk to various sports federations using the facility to ensure that the new track and its surrounding areas will be maintained well. A barrier will be put in the first six lanes, which are only for training purposes, while runners/walkers will have to use the other lanes.

"We could not prevent them from using the track, but they just have to be more responsible and observe rules. We have to keep the track in good shape because before we knew it, 2021 is here and we will be hosting the Pacific Mini Games. Also, we want to ensure the longevity of the track so it's really important for everyone to cooperate and use the facility properly," Rangamar added.

Meanwhile, with the track completion still scheduled mid May, Northern Marianas Athletics has to look for an alternate venue for the 2017 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Athletics Championships and its series of qualifiers.

Rangamar, who is also an NMA official, said they are still waiting to get permission from Hopwood Junior High School officials to use the Hilitai field for both the qualifiers and the actual tournament. Once they have the go ahead, invitations will be forwarded to both private and public schools (elementary, middle school, and high school). NMA is planning to have the qualifiers for two weeks, beginning on April 20, while the championship is scheduled for three days in the second week of May.

TSUNAMI

From Page 28

ven Pascual (2).

Aasish's sister, Ashley, also won her age group (girls 9 to 10) after collecting 90 points. Ashley's fellow Tsunami Saipan member Shoko Litulumar (68) and SSC's Andrei Kaith Lynn Chavez (47) rounded out the Top 3. Other entries in the division were SSC's Savita Sikkel (44), Aoi Braxton (16) and Sophia Brasuell (9), Manukai's Lily Jones (31) and Maeve Robbins (16), and Pohnpei's Karianne Kihleng (31).

In the boys 9 to 10 division, Tsunami Saipan's Isaiah Aleksenko had a convincing win as his 90 points were way ahead of the 70 of Manhoben's Israel Poppe. Hans Xu (63), another Tsunami Saipan swimmer, finished third and was followed by Manukai's William O'Donnell (35), SSC's Takeru Jim (27), Dino Sato (27), and Tsunami Saipan's Kean Pajarillaga (12), Miguel Bartolata (6), and Shuman Barman (2).

In the boys 11 to 12 age group, Tsunami Saipan's Juhn Tenorio won a close fight againts SSC's Jinnosuke Suzuki with the former getting 86 points against the latter's 84. Tenorio's teammate Anthony Camacho-Deleon Guerrero (65) completed the Top 3, while SSC's Taiyo Akimaru (56) and Akira Kadokura 24), Andersen's Joe Yang (39), Manhoben's Carlos Poppe (37.5), Pohpei's Kyler Kihleng (30), Manukai's Mac Jones (14), and Tsunami Saipan's Arman Rechucher (14) competed in the same division.

In the girls 11 to 12, Tsunami Saipan occupied three of the Top 4 spots with Nanaka Watanabe (90) ranked first and Asaka Litulumar (61) and Ayumi Obligacion (51) placing fourth. Palau's Klei Andreas (70) and Lolmei Uong (49), Manhoben's Abigail Harver (32), and SSC's Jinie Thompson (27) rounded out the group.

In the girls 13 to 14, Tsunami Saipan's Sophia Gauran edged teammate Aika Watanabe, 79-75. SSC's Jin Ju Thompson placed third with her 69, and was followed by Palau's Ikelau Misech (64), Pohnpei's Kestera Kihleng (46), Manukai's Ella Fedenko (42), and SSC's Jasmin Frink (21).

Meanwhile, two Palau swimmers made it to the Top 3 in the boys 13 to 14 age group with Noel Keane scoring 83 points to rule the field. His teammate, Malcolm Shae Gaymann (71), was ranked third behind SSC's Lennosuke Suzuki (78). Tsunami Saipan's Nelson Batallones (65), Kevin Guerrero (9), and Dan Illahi (7), Manhoben's Mark Imazu (52) and Christian Harver (33), and SSC's Taiga Sato (51) also joined the division.

Wizards beat Lakers to clinch division title

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Tsunami Saipan reigns supreme

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tsunami Saipan's Ashley Dangol competes in the 100m butterfly event during the 2017 Saipan Swim Club International Meet last Friday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan recorded seven first place finishes in 12 age group competitions in last week's 2017 Saipan Swim Club International Meet held at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Tsunami Saipan swept the girls and boys U8 division, 9 to 10, and 11 to 12 and topped the girls 13 to 14 age group and had a couple of Top 3 finishers in other categories to earn the most points in the three-day (March 23 to 25) tournament. The Hiro Kimura-coached club collected 1,276 points to beat host SSC (924), Palau (552), Manhoben Swim Club (468.5), Manukai Athletic Club (234.5), Pohnpei Swim Club (210), Dolphin Swim Club (138), and Andersen Marlins (39). Teams received points based on how their swimmers finished in their respective races. Swimmers got as high as nine points and as low as one.

Maria Batallones and Aasish Dangol gave Tsunami Saipan 63 points apiece as they ruled the U8 division. The 8-year-old Batallones finished ahead of SSC's Julie Ann Chavez (49) and Manukai's Sophie Tarr (39) and Anne Kate O'Donell (39). Tsunami Saipan's Sakura Hara (30), Pohnpei's Kaylinn Kihleng (19), Manukai's Sarah O'Donnell (9), and Tsunami Saipan's Nagisa Litulimar (2) completed the field.

In the boys U8, Tsunami Saipan had a 1-2 finish with Aasish scoring 63 points and Kouki Watanabe getting 53 to prevail against SSC's Moshe Sikkel (24), Marlin Chang (23), Michael Miller (16), Yutaka Kadokura (9), and Jorju Sato (2) and teammates Keisuke Asakura (4) and Ra-

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Track resurfacing completion mid May

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Sports Association was told that the resurfacing work at the Oleai Sports Complex's track oval may be done mid May.

"The contractor (Tang's Corporation) said that in about six weeks we may get the track back," said NMSA staff Elias Rangamar, who also talked to the two experts that visited the island last week to see if the track resurfacing work is being done according to international standards.

"The specifications are being followed and everything is in order. I just hope the weather will cooperate in the next six weeks so we will have the new track in the second week of May," Rangamar added.

All the materials for the resurfacing work are already on island and the track will retain is reddish color, not blue as earlier planned. Yesterday, Tang's Corporation workers were cleaning the first layer of the coating and soon as-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tang's Corporation employees work on the first layer of the Oleai Sports Complex's track, which has been undergoing resurfacing since late last year.

Twin wins for Ol'Aces; Tanapag routs Agape

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Ol'Aces Elite's E.J. Abejo, right, tries to dribble past 670 Sonics/PHI's Christian Bravo during the second half of their boys U15 division game in the 2017 Francisco M. Diaz Memorial Youth League last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Ol'Aces triumphed in their debut games in two divisions, while Tanapag also got off to a good start in the 2017 Francisco M. Diaz Memorial Youth League.

The Ol'Aces Elite played in the opening game of the Diaz caging and edged 670 Sonics/PHI in the boys U15 division last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, while the Ol'Aces crushed the Northside Wolves in the boys U18 match, 83-25.

A 46-13 scoring in the first half allowed the Ol'Aces to set up the lopsided win, as the former's much deeper bench and better shooting proved to be too much to handle for Northside. Coby Santos scored 7 straight points midway in the first half for the Ol'Aces and drew a lot of help from his teammates to build a 33-point spread at the break.

Northside never made headway at the resumption of the match, while the Ol'Aces continued to distribute the wealth to complete their domination in the first game in the boys U18 division.

Santos finished with 10 points for the Ol'Aces, while five of his teammates added at least 6 points apiece.

In the curtain-raiser, Duncan Laxa hit baskets in streak in the opening 10 minutes of the second half, while Kent Ogasawara made clutch shots in the homestretch to lift the Ol'Aces Elite to the 3-point win.

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